SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

Thursday, July 10, 2014 | Read by more than 69,000 people | Price when sold 50p

Author arrives

Christina hopes to be successful writer

See Page 3

Sarah's salon

Teenager opens up palace for pampering

See Page 5

Tennis Champ

Wimbledon pairs prize for Jordanne

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DEVELOPER LEVY TO RAKE IN £7m

ALMOST £7 million would be made available to spend on Sandwell regeneration projects if new charges on developers are introduced.

Developers would be made to find extra cash when tabling proposals, with health centres, road projects and creating public open spaces among the projects that could be funded.

Report by Adam Grinsell

Government ministers have established the Community Infrastructure Levy to help council's generate revenue from development projects.

Sandwell Council is working on the finer details of how much the authority will charge developers when planning permission is agreed. These will have to be submitted to the national Planning Inspectorate for examination.

If the charges are agreed they will be implemented from April 1 next year. Charges are to be paid by developers on top of their own costs to the council which will plough that cash into infrastructure projects.

It will operate alongside existing similar payments, called section 106 agreements, but the levy is believed to have a wider scope for the range of projects that it can be used to fund.

Sandwell Council estimated that the levy could bring it around £6.894m up to 2026 once it is introduced. Council cabinet members will discuss the levy further at a meeting held on July 23.

In a report, regeneration director Nick Bubalo, said: "The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 provide local authorities with the opportunity to generate revenue from new developments, to be spent on wide range of infrastructure projects."

A viability study commissioned by the council estimates rates of £30 per square metre for residential schemes below 15 units, and £15 per square metre for schemes of 15 units or more.

For retail developments, the study suggests rates of £50 per square metre for all retail units in West Bromwich and £60 per square metre for larger retail schemes borough-wide.

Terrorist charges admitted by friends

TWO former Birmingham classmates who secretly went to war as Islamic fighters have admitted terrorism offences. Computer science student Yusuf Sarwar and jobless Mohammed Nahin Ahmed, both 22 and from Handsworth, were caught out by a schoolboy error. They came back from Syria with thousands of photographs.

Police had been able to retrieve deleted images from a memory card.

The images showed action shots of militia carrying weapons and explosives. Two showed Birmingham City University student Sarwar and friend Ahmed pointing guns at the camera.Checks against satellite images revealed many of the photographs had been taken in the devastated Syrian city of Aleppo.

On Tuesday, Sarwar and Ahmed, both admitted one count of engaging in conduct in preparation of terrorism acts at Woolwich Crown Court. In May last year the two men flew out to Turkey and later went on to cross the Syrian border.

When they returned to the UK after eight months, West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit officers arrested them. They will be sentenced at a later date.

● Radicalised – Page 2

Council bucks tax struggle

SANDWELL Council has bucked a national trend which has seen other local authorities across the country struggle to collect council tax.

Local authorities in England collected on average 97 per cent of council tax owed by residents in 2013/14 – a fall of 0.4pc points on 2012/13.

However in Sandwell, 98pc of council tax owed was collected – making Sandwell the second best metropolitan authority for collection of council tax nationally.

Disbelief at flooding chaos

RESIDENTS have told how they had 'never seen anything like it' when flash flooding hit the Black Country after torrential rain. On Tuesday, motorists had to be pulled from their cars after being stranded while some routes had to be closed off as a result of the water levels. Some householders also found that the rain had seeped into their properties.

In Wednesbury a car spun on the Black Country Route, at around 5.15pm. Pupils were told to stay at home after flood water affected St John's CofE Primary School, in Addison Terrace, Wednesbury, as showers started at 2.30pm.

Bostin' time had by all at festival

Bethaney Smith, aged 20, and her brother Kalon Smith, 16, both of Wednesbury, at Manor House Museum

A BOSTIN' day was had by all as one of West Bromwich's favourite visitor attractions went Black Country-mad at the weekend.

Manor House Museum celebrated everything that is great about the region as part of Black Country Day celebrations.

More than 700 people attended the mini festival at the museum on Saturday, which featured live music from, among others, the Sandwell Cound Bites ukulele band, Ska Belly Blues and Friends, and Peter Hackett, and children's entertainment.

The adults came out to play later on as only those over 16 were allowed from 7pm onwards – those old enough also enjoyed a licensed bar throughout the day, with dancing going on into the evening.

Meanwhile the best of the Black Country's comedians and poets provided the best of their material to the eager crowds, including Jonathan Hipkiss and Billy Spake Mon.

And, as if they needed them, visitors could take language lessons so that they could go away being able to 'spake proper Black Country.'

Saturday also saw the final of the Best Bread Pudding in Sandwell for Black Country Day competition, judges by Billy Spake Mon and 'Blind Dave' Heeley, with the heats having been held in libraries across the region in the run up to the event.

Organiser Rachel Kinsella, Manor House's visitor services officer, said: "Black Country Day is growing at the moment, and this is the first year we have ever done anything. It's something that's going to be a permanent fixture on our calendar, so we will be doing it next year too. Everyone had a marvellous time, and it was a real success as we had over 700 people visiting us on the day."

Plan for 45 homes gets the go-ahead

A DEVELOPMENT of 45 new homes has been welcomed after being given the green light by planning bosses. The proposed development, off Mounts Road in Wednesbury, will see the houses and apartments constructed on a vacant plot of land, near to the town centre.

And this week officers at Sandwell Council have given their support to the plans. Approving the planning application, a report from officers reads: "Overall I very much welcome this application."

The land, next to a railway line, used to be home to four rows of maisonettes which have since been demolished.

As part of the plan, the applicants TiMik Ltd will build 12 two-bedroom houses, 13 three-bedroom houses, 18 two-bedroom apartments and two, two-bedroom coach houses. All of the houses will be two-storey builds, while the apartments will be three storeys high.

One objection to the plans was received by nearby ANA Food Services Ltd, which did not want the operating hours of the business affected by the development, so environmental health officers have recommended a condition that the developer installs noise mitigation measures.

Tyre garage ram-raided

RAM-RAIDERS smashed into a tyre sales garage. HiQ Tyre Services, in Oldbury, was targeted by raiders who smashed into front shutters at around 12.30am on Monday.

A small number of tyres were stolen from the premises, in Wolverhampton Road, following the break-in.

Police said that burglars entered through the shutters of the building. Anyone with information can call 101 quoting crime ref 20SW/118594E/14.

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New dad registers baby problem

James Woodley with Ethan

DEVOTED dad James Woodley had to try three different councils to get the birth of his son registered.

The 35-year-old found himself unable to get through to two local authorities and turned away by another before eventually being told he would have to wait a further two weeks for an appointment.

Parents have a legal obligation to register a birth within six weeks. Baby Ethan was born on June 9 and when data manager Mr Woodley, of Great Barr, tried to ring Sandwell Council on June 12 he says he spent more than 45 minutes on hold. "I then tried to book an appointment online and every one was taken for six weeks," said the father of three, of Poolhouse Road.

He tried Birmingham City Council and Walsall Council which eventually agreed to handle the paperwork and pass it on to Birmingham City Council for him, but not before July 3. Great Barr is on the border between all three authorities although Mr Woodley's road is within Sandwell Council's jurisdiction. However, the legal position is that babies have to be registered in the area where they were born, which in Ethan's case would be Birmingham.

Sandwell Council's deputy leader Mahboob Hussain said there was a problem with the web page.

Extremist pair were radicalised online

THEY went to great lengths to cover their tracks. But two former Birmingham classmates left an easy trail to follow when pictures of them dressed up as Islamic fighters were uncovered.

Yusuf Sarwar and Mohammed Nahin Ahmed's pictures which had been erased from a computer memory card helped to dismiss claims that they had been involved in humanitarian work in Syria.

There were prominent images of them pointing guns at the camera in among action shots of militia carrying weapons and explosives.

Checks against satellite images revealed many of the photographs had been taken in the devastated Syrian city of Aleppo, where savage fighting raged between the army and rebel groups.

Sarwar and Ahmed, who both admitted one count of engaging in conduct in preparation of terrorism acts, were just two of hundreds of young men from Britain who have recently gone to fight in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere.

They were also among an increasing number of 'self radicalised' extremists, who are converted by online chat rather than a rousing address at a radical mosque.

Instead of going to prayers for inspiration, they reach for their laptop and 'talk' to extremists – like the one living beyond the law in Denmark with whom Ahmed was in touch.

Details taken from Ahmed's computer revealed he had been in conversation with the man before flying out to Syria and had concluded their internet discussion by saying: "Your words are very inspiring to me."

The alarm was first raised when the parents of Sarwar reported him missing to the police on May 19, 2013.

He had left a six page letter detailing his intention to travel to Syria and join up with the Islamic Jihadist group Kataib al Muhajireen – part of Al Nusra – and a banned organisation in this country. The letter explained: "I have gone on holiday but the real purpose is to do Jihad for Allah."

He regarded fighting as an 'obligation' to protect his religion and warned his family not to contact the authorities.

His family initially believed their son had gone to Istanbul on a two-week trip with his university.

He used a bogus leaflet – produced with long time friend Ahmed – as cover. It detailed an alleged itinerary and gave the name of Edward Duncan as the contact.

Both the man and the leaflet were fake but the e-mail address given for inquiries had been set up with a dummy account to ensure that any inquiry would be re-routed to them.

Within hours of being tipped off, detectives realised Sarwar had left the country with unemployed Ahmed, who lived near him in Handsworth, because both travelled under their real names. There was no need for subterfuge since neither expected to return home.

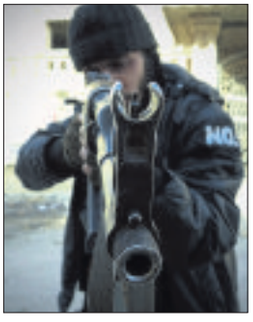
They aimed to die a martyr's death on a Syrian battlefield and had settled their affairs - including paying off debts - before leaving.

They boarded a coach for Heathrow on May 14 – but had left a tell tale trail by booking and paying for tickets online seven days earlier.

CCTV film showed them arriving at the Premier Inn near the airport and leaving early the next morning.

Overnight, Ahmed trimmed his beard and shaved his head believing this would make him stand out less in a crowd.

Yusuf Sarwar – in Syria



Mohammed Nahin Ahmed

A pre-travel image which was extracted by police from Ahmed's computer

Ahmed, seen clean shaven at Heathrow Airport before the flight to

Ex-Baggies star gets sentence over theft

FORMER West Bromwich Albion footballer Ronnie Wallwork will be forced to do unpaid work after admitting stealing a high-performance car.

The ex-Baggies midfielder, who made 93 appearances for the club, has already been jailed for his role in a stolen car parts racket. But the ex-footballer faced another court appearance in Manchester last week.

Minshull Street Crown Court heard Wallwork entered into an agreement with car finance company Money Barn PLC in June 2008 for a high-powered Audi A4. The vehicle was worth £28,000 at the time and the deal included fees and charges of around £12,000 – amounting to a total repayment cost of around £41,000.

The judge was told that Wallwork,agreed to make the payments. But the court heard payments stopped at around the time he was arrested for his part in an illegal vehicle-breaking plot. Wallwork was jailed for 15 months in December 2011.

Wallwork, from Failsworth, near Oldham, pleaded guilty to theft. Judge Leslie Hull ordered he carry out 120 hours unpaid work with £1,200 costs.

Hosepipe ban is ruled out

A HOSEPIPE ban is unlikely this summer, water bosses have said.

Reports suggest June was one of the warmest since records began in 1910 with the thermometer set to rise higher than average in July for the seventh month in a row. But Severn Trent Water has insisted resources are fine with no hosepipe bans expected this year.

Marcus O'Kane, water resources strategy chief said: "It may have been warm over the last few months, but it has also been raining and this has kept our resources in good supply."

M&S in slump

MARKS & Spencer revealed it has suffered another fall in non-food sales. M&S, with a store in Park Street, Walsall, said like-for-like sales in general merchandise fell by 1.5 per cent in the 13 weeks to June 28, bringing declining sales up to 12 quarters in a row.

£703,000 legacy of chief for victims

A TOTAL of £703,000 has been secured for victims of crime in the West Midlands, after cash was secured by the late Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones.

The cash award was announced just days after the untimely death of Mr Jones, who died in his sleep at the age of 59 last Monday.

Money from the Ministry of Justice will be used to support victims of crimes including domestic violence and sexual offences.

West Midlands Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Yvonne Mosquito said: "I am delighted that we have secured this funding, and it is tragic that Bob did not live to see this success.

"It is a testament to Bob and his approach that our bid was based on issues the community identified, notably violent sexual offences, Female Genital Mutilation, domestic violence and offences against the most vulnerable in society.

"This funding will enable the organisations to better support victims, as well as develop new preventative approaches.

"We should all be grateful for Bob's huge effort and commitment to supporting victims of crime, which led to this funding."

House opens to the public

A LANDMARK Grade II listed house is set to be opened up to the public ahead of the start of a major refurbishment.

Guided tours will be given at Lightwoods House, in Lightwoods Park in Bearwood, later this month before the £5 million work begins.

Since 2007 the house, which was built in 1791, has stood empty.

It will be opened with a tea room, and will be fitted out to host exhibitions, rent rooms out for weddings and functions and host community events.

RSPCA in plea

THE RSPCA are calling on people to donate more items at their shop in Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, to help with their latest charity drive. A 'dump or donate day' means people can take items to work and an RSPCA volunteer will pick items up. Call 0121 559 4698.

T-shirts moved inside after 'soft porn' claim

The T-shirts that sparked the complaint

T-SHIRTS with scantily clad models were branded as 'soft porn' after they were put on sale at the front of a shop in the Black Country.

Opera singer and choir leader Sarah-Ann Cromwell said she was concerned the T-shirts would be seen by small children as they were at the same height they would be at when walking by.

The T-shirts have now been moved inside the Blue Inc shop in West Bromwich's New Square where they were on display.

Miss Cromwell's complaints were taken up by the town's MP Tom Watson who said: "I've asked Blu Inc if they will consider moving them away from the front of the shop. The boss of New Square has said the shop have said their head office tell them where to put the T-shirts and all the stores have them at the front."

Miss Cromwell spotted the T-shirts after finishing her teenage choir group session at George Salter High School. The T-shirts are World Cup themed with England and Italy written on them and with models in thongs sitting on or holding footballs.

Freelance musician Miss Cromwell, from Birmingham, said: "I think these T-shirts are soft porn. I'm not saying they should be withdrawn from sale. But I do think it's wrong to have them displayed so prominently where little children are walking by."

Blue Inc was not available for comment but a store worker confirmed the T-shirts have now been moved inside.

New Square spokesman Anna Geddes said: "New Square Shopping Centre is a family-friendly destination and so when we received a complaint about the T-shirts in question we were quick to pick it up with the store directly."

Eviction note father-to-be found hanged at home

A FATHER-TO-BE took his own life a day after he was given an eviction notice for the home he was decorating for his new family, an inquest heard.

Kieran Dickenson, aged 25, was found hanged by his partner Rebecca Forbes the morning after the pair had been out for a meal on November 16.

The hearing heard how Miss Forbes was expecting the couple's first child four weeks after his death and that he was planning to go Christmas shopping for his first child.

But she told Smethwick Coroner's Court that there were occasions when they hadn't kept up payments on their £600-a-month home in St John's Road Oldbury.

Miss Forbes, who gave birth to a girl, said: "He would come to the house and yell at Kieran through the window. He was abusive to him. The day before his death we got an eviction notice through the door.

Arrangement

"There was arrangement in place where the landlord would provide the materials and Kieran would do up the house but he wasn't forthcoming with the materials."

After the couple had been to the pub they bought a bottle of whisky. Miss Forbes had gone to bed and told the hearing Mr Dickenson, a painter and decorator, came into their room around 4am and told her he loved her. Later in the morning when she discovered the body of her partner.

Pc Andrew Lowbridge said there was a quantity of class A drugs. Mr Balmain said the medical cause of death was asphyxia due to hanging. He concluded that Mr Dickenson hung himself while under the influence of alcohol and cocaine.

Mortgage booster for Tipton

THE number of mortgage completions by the Tipton and Coseley was up by 26 per cent in the first six months of this year, according to new figures.

Mortgage applications processed during the first half of the year also outperformed the same period of 2013.

Completions by the society, which also has branches in Sedgley and Bilston, between January to June totalled £21.06m and applications reached £33.72m compared to £31.30m in 2013, an increase of almost eight per cent.

Richard Newton, the society's chief executive said: "We are extremely pleased that our mortgage completions and applications have increased on last year.

"The Financial Conduct Authority's Mortgage Market Review came into force in April and there had been speculation that the regulations could make it harder to obtain a mortgage as well as potentially raising credit scoring requirements.

"We prefer a more flexible approach."

New author hopes for dream book deal

Hoping to get her novel The Secrets of Arran on the shelves, is Black Country author Christina Kelly

A WOMAN from the Black Country is harbouring hopes of becoming an international best-selling author after having her first book published.

Mother-of-three Christina Kelly is set to hit the shelves with her debut novel The Secrets of Arran.

Written over the past two years, the novel follows a girl's journey through the witness protection programme with a police detective on the Isle of Arran. And if West Midlands Fire Service worker Christina, 42, can get 250 pre-orders of her novel, she will land an international book deal.

She said: "I always wanted to write a book so I went for it, not thinking it would do anything. A few of my friends and my sister read it, and they told me to send it off."

The book was originally accepted by the same publishing house used by EL James, writer of the infamous 50 Shades of Grey, which helped her to edit the novel. It is now with Britain's Next Best Seller, which has offered her the potential book deal. The Secrets of Arran is inspired by a true-life tale, that of Danielle Cable who was put into witness protection aged just 18 after seeing her fiancé stabbed to death. Christina said: "I had the story in my head for quite a long time after seeing a news article on Danielle Cable.

"I needed a setting for the book, and we happened to go to the Isle of Arran on holiday – I thought it would be the perfect place to hide someone."

NEWS in brief

Double awards success for NEC

THE Birmingham National Exhibition Centre has scooped a top award. It won the venue team of the year in the 2014 Association of Event Organisers' Excellence Awards.

It was the second time in three years that the NEC had been successful.

"Team NEC brings together many different people, departments and organisations and this award is recognition of the hard work put in by everyone," said Gary Masters, NEC security manager.

Pupils get fired up for rocket fun

PUPILS have been sampling fire, explosions and rockets as part of a new project.

Young people from Barr Beacon School in Aldridge have been get inspiration on considering jobs in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths. As part of the tasks, pupils were challenged to design, build and modify a small fan-powered car.

The designs were then pitted against each other and raced to find the fastest in the main school hall.

Offenders car hits wall in crash

A CAR struck a wall in a crash in the early hours as offenders made off from the scene.

The silver Rover 114 crashed in The Causeway, Rowley Regis, at around 2.45am on Monday.

Significant damage was caused to the front of the car in the smash. Police today said that those individuals in the car left the scene. No arrests have been made at this stage.

Night of music set for church

A NIGHT of music will take place at a church next weekend. Coalpool Methodist Church in Walsall is holding their annual Songs of Praise service at the weekend.

The church, in Coalpool Lane, is holding the service from 3pm on Sunday. The guest speaker will be local preacher Linda Brown. Everyone is welcome.

Delays for drivers

DRIVERS face six weeks of delays in Walsall as water main work is carried out. A one-way system will operate along Weston Street, West Bromwich Street and Corporation Street, Caldmore, from July 20 on.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

OUR changing language. We are losing the battle to preserve "against." These days, people protest a decision and appeal a conviction. The next step? A radio reporter eliminated "about" as he told us that someone was "worrying the outcome." Sensible English is vanishing. I worry it. I really do.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

HERE'S the sort of thing that makes people angry with big corporations. A couple of days ago our troubled landline packed up yet again. The phone was dead but the broadband was working perfectly. So I went online to the BT page which invites us to: "manage your BT line problems. Troubleshoot issues, report and track faults." I entered the phone number into the appropriate box. Back came the message: "Please note that faults on this line cannot be reported via BT.com - please call 0800 800 151." In other words, there's a fault on your phone, so please give us a phone call.

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THREE alien species are being targeted for extermination by Defra, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I can see them bumping off the Indian house crow and the quagga mussel without too many problems. But what reckless, fate-tempting fool will raise his shotgun against the third species, the sacred ibis? The clue is in the name. There is something about shooting an Egyptian sacred ibis that combines those twin follies of killing albatrosses and desecrating a Pharaoh's tomb. How long before those who slaughter the sacred ibis are discovered to be suffering from a nasty bout of ill-fortune, a term which will cover anything from sudden death to an ingrown toenail? I bet the headline writers are already on the case: "Curse of the Sacred Ibis." Don't you just love the silly season?

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FAREWELL, the old shoe shop, which has graced our main street for as long as I can remember. It is being replaced by an ice-cream parlour. In this internet age, the products that do best in the high street are the ones that cannot be ordered on line. Shoes can be successfully delivered by courier, ice cream less so.

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SO THE future is robotics. If you believe everything you hear, the Government's Technology Strategy Board is going to drive the UK into the forefront of the global robotic market with a dozen new proving grounds for robots, drones and driverless cars. The aim is to release humans from dirty, dangerous or repetitive tasks. So far, so good. But anyone over 60 will recall the glittering promise of something called automation. Back in the 1950s, automation was going to release us humans from drudgery. As one old timer told me lyrically many years ago: "The idea was that we'd only have to work a couple of hours a day and we'd spend the rest of our time writing poetry and making mandolins." It has not happened. Far from setting mankind free, the new technology, based on computers, has shackled millions more people to the grindstone. In 1952 about 23 million British people were employed. Today that figure is approaching 32 million. What are the odds on robotics making life easier, giving us more time to raise the kids, draft the occasional sonnet and make a mandolin? Be very sceptical. The lesson of history is that the more labour-saving devices we invent, the harder we must labour.

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SOUTH Korea's World Cup squad were pelted with toffees after arriving home empty-handed from the World Cup. Over there, hurling high-calorie, sugar-filled treats at someone is regarded as a great insult. Over here, it's a friendly greeting. More Quality Street, gran?

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"PEOPLE like me pay tax to finance an unneeded benefit to people like me." Roger Bootle, managing director of Capital Economics, writing this week about the winter-fuel payment and the "frightful mess" of our welfare system.

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ELTON John says Jesus would have approved of gay marriage. Strange that He never mentioned it.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

House prices to top £200k barrier

AVERAGE house prices in the West Midlands are on course to break the £200,000 barrier by the end of next year, says a new report.

Officials say it is a sign of the increasing strength in the region's economy, with growth expected to almost double this year.

Experts at leading accountancy firm PwC – formerly PricewaterhouseCoopers – say the recovery in the wider UK economy could see interest rates starting to rise as early as the end of this year.

While that might cause a slight slowdown in the housing market, as some families shy away from the prospect of higher mortgage repayments, PwC is still predicting average house prices in the West Midlands could hit £210,000 by the end of next year. And they could rise as high as £256,000 by 2020 It is a reflection of how the UK housing market has leapt back into life over the past 12-18 months, with prices rising across the country. At the moment house prices are expected to rise eight per cent in the West Midlands this year, up from £184,000 at the end of 2013.

Mark Smith, regional chairman at PwC in the Midlands, said: "House prices in the West Midlands are accelerating but we do expect this to moderate over the next two to three years, slowing to six per cent in 2015."

Meanwhile the region's economy on the road to recovery. Growth in the West Midlands is expected to pick up from 1.6 per cent in 2013 to around 3.1 per cent in 2014, in line with the rest of the UK.

700k grant to help keep people healthy

ALMOST £700,000 will be spent trying to get people in the Black Country to do at least 30 minutes of exercise a week.

The project,known as Black Country in Motion, will be launched tomorrow. Chiefs behind the initiative have highlighted two areas each in the boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton to target getting inactive people back into sport.

By Jon Pritchard

The programme is set to run until March 2016, thanks to £484,910 from Sport England and more than £200,000 of funding from partners.

The aim is to get 3,000 people doing 30 minutes of exercise a week by March 2016. The funding will also pay for a PhD research study led by the University of Wolverhampton, while the programme will also be training up local people with sports qualifications.

It is then hoped that they will continue offering sport and physical activity in the local areas for years to come.

Andy Webb, head of sport and physical activity at Dudley Council said: "Black Country in Motion will engage local people in physical activity programmes on their doorstep."

The programme will target people in Castle and Priory and Netherton and Woodside in Dudley, Smethwick and Tipton Green in Sandwell, Blakenall and Bentley and Darlaston North in Walsall and East Park and Bilston East in Wolverhampton. Mr Webb said: "Volunteer support for the initiative will make the different elements of the programme sustainable."

Black Country in Motion is run by the Black Country BeActive Partnership, who promote sport and physical activity in the area. They are hosting a Community Fun Day on Friday to launch the Black Country in Motion programme.

The fun day will start at 12.45pm at Priory Park in Dudley, and activities will continue until 4pm. Ian Austin MP, along with three of the Black Country Mayors and project volunteers will be officially cutting the ribbon to start a jog/walk around the park.

Activities will be taking place for members of the public from 12.45 until approx 4pm – this includes things like running, tennis, multi sports, and a penalty shoot out against Wolfie.

Launch events are scheduled to take place in all of the other areas between now and August, and further details can be found at www.blackcountryinmotion.co.uk

Crackdown on cars

POLICE patrols are being stepped up to reports that dozens of car cruisers have been gathering at an industrial estate. Scores of drivers have been spotted at Maybrook Industrial Estate in Brownhills, near Bloxwich. There were 18 registration numbers identified last weekend and dispersed by officers. West Midlands Police say any vehicles seen driving in an anti-social manner can be served with a section 59 notice. These give officers power to seize any vehicles being driven in anti-social way on a further occasion.

Youngsters spruce up church

At the front is Sanjay Verma, aged 19, from Halesowen and Reverend Sarah Brush

GREEN fingered volunteers have spruced up the grounds of a Black Country church as part of a two week project organised by the Prince's Trust.

St Peter's Church in Cradley has undergone a garden makeover thanks to 2 volunteers from Wolverhampton City College.

The clean-up campaign was undertaken over 10 days and the team of volunteers, all aged 16-25, celebrated with a small garden party organised by the church. Team leader Nicki Tinker said: "The community project at the church included creating a memorial area for people who have lost a child or suffered a miscarriage."

The 55-year-old from Netherton added: "We have also cleared an area for a memorial orchard where people can plant fruit trees in memory of a loved one."

Rev Sarah Brush said: "It is fantastic and so great to see the transformation. It is now a beautiful place for people to come along and having the volunteers here has really opened the church up to young people."

Anslow's launderer is told to pay £4.5k

A WOMAN who helped launder dirty money for Black Country drug lord John Anslow has been ordered to repay almost £4,500.

Jacqueline Hughes had benefited to the tune of £30,000 from the racket, a Proceeds of Crime hearing was told. But the realisable assets of the 42-year-old only amounted to £4,449, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The hearing was told that Hughes worked for a firm called Molineux Boilers that seemed to have paid Anslow £4,597 a month after tax and other stoppages. Mr Andrew Wallace told the court: "He appeared to be an employee of the company but the worksheets do not show him doing any work."

Mother of two Hughes from Mayhurst Close, Tipton was given a 12-month prison term suspended for two years with £2,000 costs and 150 hours' unpaid work in June last year. She had pleaded guilty to facilitating the acquisition, use or control of criminal property in the shape of the BMW X6 and laundering cash from crime to help with the purchase of another car between March and September 2010.

Judge Webb has now made a confiscation order in the sum of £4449 and given Hughes six months to pay, otherwise she faces three months behind bars.

Blackheath fun for all with event

FAMILIES are invited to a free fun day out at the Blackheath Festival on Saturday 26 July.

The event, in Blackheath High Street, is on from 1-6pm and includes live bands, a funfair, talent show and lots more. The High Street will be closed to traffic from 11am.

Admission is free and the event is part of the council's Rowley Summer Festival. There's also lots of children's activities put on by Sandwell Leisure Trust and the Youth Bus will be there.

To take part in the talent show, which will be on stage from 2-3pm, email willwalk01@hotmail.co.uk or youngpeople_services@sandwell.gov.uk or call 07940 471 584. For details call 07837 602 320.

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Postmen attacked by dogs tops 100

MORE than 100 postmen and women were attacked by dogs in the West Midlands and Staffordshire last year, it has been revealed.

The figures, released by Royal Mail, shows an increase in all five postcodes in the region. Almost 80 attacks were logged by postmen and women between April 2013 and 2014, including 39 in the B postcode area. Wolverhampton saw seven attacks, while the figure rose to 19 in Dudley.

Walsall was the only area that saw a decrease compared to the previous year, dropping to 13 from 14. And in Staffordshire, where figures include Stafford and South Staffordshire, as well as Stoke, the number of attacks drastically rose to 45 from 19 the previous year.

There are an increased number of attacks during the summer holidays, when parents and children are at home and dogs are left off their leads to play.

Karen English, delivery director at Royal Mail, said: "We know that most dogs are not inherently dangerous, however, even the most placid animal can be prone to attack if it feels its territory is being threatened.

For more information, visit www.royalmail.com/dogawareness

Huge auction of property

THE largest ever property auction run by Birmingham chartered surveyors CPBigwood saw a total of £10.3 million paid out.

There were 141 lots in the auction held in the Holte Suite at Aston Villa's Villa Park ground with 68 per cent selling on the day.

Among those going unsold was Walsall's former Highgate Brewery. The historic Grade II listed complex at Sandy Mount Road had a guide price of £850,000, but bidding only reached £840,000.

Many houses went for above their guide prices.

Politician visits

THE deputy leader of the UKIP party will be in the Black Country for a public meeting being held today, Thursday.

Paul Nuttall will be guest speaker at Birchills Liberal Club in Old Birchills, Walsall. The meeting takes place from 7.30pm .

B for Best as music fans vote for top tracks

Judge – Birmingham singer Laura Mvula

FROM Black Sabbath to Joan Armatrading and Led Zeppelin to Laura Mvula.

More than 150 songs by 85 artists have been nominated as tourism bosses try to draw up an album of the top 20 tracks by West Midlands bands and singers.

Visit Birmingham has launched its B-side campaign– to come up with a 'virtual album' of tracks by home grown talent.

And it has emerged that Ozzy Osborne's Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, which featured Wolves fan Robert Plant and Birmingham-based ELO are leading the nominations.

Tracks put forward so far span six decades and more than 80 artists.

A special panel of musicians, writers, promoters and presenters has been put together to help decide on the final album line up.

The panel includes MOBO award winning Laura Mvula, who hails from Birmingham, Horace Panter from The Specials and Phil Etheridge, from The Twang.

Members of the public have been sending in their nominations for the virtual album, while the judges have also been championing some of their favourite West Midlands songs. Other famous faces to have nominated songs include Wolverhampton soul singer Beverley Knight, Russell Leetch from the Editors and UB40's Brian Travers.

All of the nominations will be whittled down to the final virtual album of 20 tracks, which will be unveiled on July 16.

Organisers say Birmingham and the West Midlands has a reputation as a rich breeding ground for musical talent.

They add: "We feel, however, that the city's light has sometimes been hidden under a bushel, and like the B-side of an old 7" single, is something of a hidden gem."

£3.2m NHS boost to help cope with winter deluge

AN extra £3.2 million will be given to Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group to help cope with winter pressures, bosses have revealed.

Andy Williams, accountable officer for the group, which is responsible for buying healthcare services for more than 525,000 people, revealed that NHS England had announced the funding.

Bosses will now draw up plans over the next couple of months on how the cash will be spent and say extra hospital staff, beds and community care packages would be considered.

At a meeting of the governing body, members were also told that the 95 per cent Government target for seeing A&E patients within four hours was not met in May by the Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

It fell short at 94.5 per cent – compared to reaching 96 per cent in April – with a 34 per cent consultant vacancy rate in emergency medicine and insufficient cover marked up as one of the problems.

The number of A&E patients not seen within four hours stood at 309 in the last week in May, compared to 138 in the last week of April.

Mr Williams said receiving the funding news early this year would help Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG plan ahead and make sure measures were put in place before the busy winter period.

He said: "It's an injection of cash to help us cope with urgent care pressures.

"Over the next couple of months we will finalise our plans and start to put things in place."

Man died after fall in care home

A MAN who had a fall at a nursing home in Tipton died after suffering a bleed on the brain, an inquest heard.

Alfred Small suffered a fall at Ryland View Nursing Home on October 10 last year and was found by staff on the floor in a toilet after shouting for help, an inquest held at Smethwick Council House heard last Wednesday.

The 83-year-old, who lived in Walton Road, Wednesbury, and had been staying in the nursing home on a temporary basis, died the next day at Sandwell Hospital.

Debbie Whittle, unit manager at the nursing home, told the inquest that Mr Small suffered from a lot of falls, but was an independent man.

She said: "He was reluctant to ask for help." After he fell, Ms Whittle said that staff then started to notice he was slurring his speech and called for an ambulance.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain concluded that he had died as a result of an accident.

Beautiful beginning for Sarah, 19

Starting up her business Pamper Palace, is Sarah Painter, aged 19, of West Bromwich, at Wood Lane Community Centre

OPENING her own beauty salon is a dream come true for 19-year-old Sarah Painter.

With help from the Prince's Trust, the teenager has set up Pamper Palace. It is based at the Wood Lane Community Centre in West Bromwich and offers a range of treatments.

She first began honing her skills at the age of 13 while a pupil at the former Dartmouth High School, now Q3 Academy. Sarah later studied beauty at Sandwell College to gain industry qualifications before working on her plan to open her own business.

She saved up cash to put towards it and also received a £1,900 grant from the Prince's Trust which helped to pay for supplies and her reception at the community centre.

As well as funding, she also received training from the charity. She attended a five-day workshop which gave her valuable advice on how to start and run a successful business.

After the opening, Sarah said she had received a lot of interest so far. "I do a range of beauty treatments, nails, make-up, spray tans and ear-piercing. Running my own business is something I've wanted to do since I was 13. We had a beauty salon at my school so I was able to get some qualifications there. It's nice to be in charge of my own business, I am really happy. I am grateful to the Prince's Trust for helping me as the money was very important," said Sarah, who lives in West Bromwich.

NEWS in brief

Warning over tunnel closures

DRIVERS are being warned to prepare for the summer closure of two of Birmingham city centre's tunnels, after overnight closures have begun.

The second phase of the refurbishment of the St Chad's and Queensway tunnels through the city will mean the route is closed to all traffic from 10pm on July 18 until 6am on September 1.

But, overnight closures have begun, with the tunnels closed from 10pm to 6am every night until July 18.

Girl seriously hurt following collision

A THREE-year-old girl suffered a serious leg injury when she was hit by a car.

The girl was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital with a fractured leg and a head injury following the incident, which happened on the A461 Dudley Port, last Wednesday at 3.15pm.

Paramedics gave pain relief to the young girl before taking her to hospital for further emergency treatment.

No-one else was injured.

£250k winner comes forward

A £250,000 lottery prize has been claimed weeks after the winning numbers were drawn after bosses launched a public appeal.

The ticket was bought in Walsall for the May 30 draw, and the cash prize had remained unclaimed.

National Lottery spokesman Patrick Lisoire said: "We're delighted that the winner of this amazing prize has now come forward and we hope that they will enjoy their win."

UKIP candidate chosen for seat

UKIP has chosen a candidate to contest a Black Country seat at the General Election. Graham Eardley has been put up against Labour's MP Adrian Bailey in West Bromwich West.

The constituency includes Great Bridge, Oldbury, Princes End, Tipton Green and Tividale. Mr Eardley lives in Pelsall, Walsall.

Authors in visit

AUTHORS are at Pheasey Library today, Thursday. The authors of Tindal Street Fiction Group who have contributed to The Sea in Birmingham, an anthology of 22 stories, will be answering questions.

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

JUST returning from a brief spell in Europe, one thing always strikes me is how much better the town centres over there seem to be doing compared to those in this country.

One reason is unquestionably down to the fact that while in this country, local councils seem bent on making people walk as far as possible from their cars to the shops – take for example the ridiculous block paving outside the Express & Star offices in Queen Street, which seems to have at a stroke slashed the number of on-street parking spaces.

But the other thing is that all the shops open in the evening. It has always struck me as quite absurd how nearly all the shops in our town centres open just as everybody arrives at work, and then shut just at the same time as people return. Wouldn't it be a really clever idea for shops to maybe start trading a couple of hours later, say at 11am, and stay open to maybe 9 pm?

❒❒❒❒❒

JUST when you thought there was nothing left that Benefits Street star Deirdre 'White Dee' Kelly could do that would surprise you, she has finally decided to tell the world she has been off benefits for the past three months. Wonders will never cease. She has also fired a broadside at fellow celebrity chav Josie Cunningham.

White Dee says Cunningham, the 23-year-old would-be 'glamour model' who bragged about how she got her £4,800 breast enhancement on the NHS to help with her career, is 'rubbing the taxpayers' nose in it' with her incessant gloating about how much she is taking off the State.

It really comes to something when White Dee thinks you are lowering the tone. Meanwhile, it seems Josie has been offered a book deal, where she will no doubt wax lyrical about how her NHS surgery enabled her to embark on a spell as a £1,000-a-night 'escort' before becoming pregnant by a client.

The book will be in Josie's own words and completely unedited. No doubt in a few years' time, it will be appearing on the National Curriculum. In the mean time I'm sure we can all have a lot of fun colouring it in.

❒❒❒❒❒

ANOTHER testament to the British education system comes in the shape of 19-year-old Zach Jackson, who found even the task of street robbery too much for his tiny brain to take in.

Because he found the work so gruelling, he compiled a helpful little checklist offering himself a bit of advice on how to complete the work successfully.

"Wear black clothes, gloves, warm up before doing it, watch out for CCTV, grab," were his pearls of wisdom for how to make it as an effective mugger. One tip, Zach. You're much less likely to get caught if you don't write down the instructions.

Paddy with her late husband David in Spain

Paddy receives flowers from Wolverley head Bryn Thomas

The great granny in action with dance partner Nico Espinosa

'I'll keep dancing as long as I can'

The octogenarian salsa dancer from Stourbridge isn't ready to quit, she tells **CHARLOTTLE LILLEY**

SHE is the hip-shaking, nimble-footed great-grandmother who stunned the nation as she was thrown around the dancefloor by her younger partner.

Jaws dropped as Paddy Jones twirled around the Britain's Got Talent stage earning herself a standing ovation from all four judges.

As she celebrates her 80th birthday, she has revealed she has no plans to hang up her dancing shoes yet, vowing to carry on as long as she can.

Golden

Paddy, from Stourbridge, won the hearts of the nation when she was put straight through to the final of the ITV1 show after judge Amanda Holden pressed her golden buzzer.

She says: "Since appearing on the show my life has been incredible and now I want to encourage people to go for their dreams and not give up.

"My mother was a singer and she wanted to be professional but my grandpa said no and told her she had to stay in Stourbridge. I think she lived her life through me. I started dancing at the age of two and later started drama and elocution lessons because, living in the Black Country, elocution is important. I was 12 when I did my first professional show at Dudley Hippodrome and 15 when I left school to go into theatre."

Paddy performed in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Blackpool before meeting her late husband, David, at the age of 16. She decided to give up dancing aged 22 to start a family and ran a shop called Paddy's Fabrics in Victoria Passage, Stourbridge.

'I have no intention of giving up just yet,' says 80-year-old Paddy Jones

In 2001 the couple decided to move to Spain but sadly their move was delayed when David was diagnosed with leukaemia. After nine months of treatment at Russells Hall Hospital, he was well enough to go and they enjoyed a few happy months there before the disease returned. He died in March 2003.

Paddy took up Latin-American dance lessons to keep herself busy and rediscovered her love of dance. Her teacher Nico Espinosa, 40 years her junior, recognised her potential and together they started working on routines.

Since then she has been swung, flung, thrown and twirled around stages all over the world and together the couple won the Spanish version of Britain's Got Talent. They finished ninth in the UK version of the competition after Paddy soldiered on despite breaking her ribs just before the final round.

"I never expected the kind of reception I got after appearing on Britain's Got Talent," says Paddy. "It was incredible when Amanda pressed the golden buzzer because we were the first contestants on the show to get one and we didn't know what to think. Nico was besides himself and burst into tears. It was an incredible feeling.

"Amanda has been an absolutely wonderful person and a fantastic mentor. She is so down to earth and is incredibly supportive because she sent flowers to Spain when I cracked my ribs."

Since she started dancing again, Paddy, whose real name is Sarah Patricia Jones, has travelled to North and South America, Europe and Israel.

Peru

She competed in Showmatch, the Argentinian version of Strictly Come Dancing but failed to reach the final. The pair have also performed at the World Salsa Congress in Peru.

In 2010 she was entered into the Guinness World Record books for being the oldest salsa acrobatic dancer.

"I received a medal after appearing in the book which I treasure very much because it is a fantastic achievement," says Paddy. "It has been a very exciting few years and I have really enjoyed myself and since the show ended I have had a lot of job offers.

"Nico and I have been invited to appear on India's Got Talent as guest performers which is exciting. I have also been asked to perform on a cruise ship for three months but that is just too long because I have a home, a garden, a dog and a cat in Spain and I can't abandon them.

"I will carry on dancing for as long as I am able to. I have no intention of giving up just yet."

Last week Paddy marked her 80th birthday by giving a talk about her experiences to students at Wolverley CE Secondary School near Kidderminster.

The mother-of-four and grandmother-of-seven comes back to the West Midlands every four months from her home in Spain to visit friends and family. She says: "I miss Stourbridge, I love coming back and seeing everyone I know. I'm a Stourbridge girl at heart."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE sudden death of West Midlands police and crime commissioner Bob Jones has left a void that many think cannot be filled – even though the law says they must do so in just over a month.

Were the loss of a public servant respected even by his political opponents not enough, the police have now been left dealing with one of the more absurd parts of the statute that created the post in the first place.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act that gave rise to the 2012 elections of PCCs requires a by-election be held 'not more than 35 days after the relevant event'.

Councillor Darren Cooper, who chairs the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel, found himself in the unenviable position of having to discuss how to replace Mr Jones within four hours of being told of his passing.

There then followed a debate between Government departments over whether '35 days' meant calendar or business days and whether the 'relevant event' (such a cold and clinical term) meant Mr Jones' passing or some formal notification.

If we leave aside the gross insensitivity of a law that requires a vacancy to be filled so quickly, it is also a bureaucratic nightmare.

The PCC for the West Midlands covers not fewer than seven council areas. Three of them are cities and one of those is Birmingham, the second biggest in the country.

Then there will be the work for the political parties and candidates, who must select people to stand for them and get all the paperwork through.

There will need to be the time to come up with campaign literature.

Meanwhile the work of the PCC must continue. An interim appointment will be made later this month.

But what happens if the temporary post holder, likely to be deputy PCC Yvonne Mosquito, wants to throw her hat into the ring?

Will she be allowed to campaign while technically the incumbent?

All the while, we continue to mourn the loss of Bob Jones CBE, who never believed the role of a PCC should exist in the first place.

In a letter to the Express & Star in 2012, thanking voters and pledging to serve everyone, regardless of how or even if they voted, Mr Jones wrote: "I believe police and crime commissioners are an expensive and unnecessary change, poorly implemented and appallingly publicised."

Were he with us today he would be within his rights to say the chaos following his death had proved him correct.

But he'd be too busy quietly getting on with the job for that.

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Time to eradicate football cheating

NOW that we read through various forms of the media that the Uruguayan footballer is admitting to biting the Italian player and as such telling lies to both FIFA and his National FA, in fact putting his national president in an invidious position, we also read that the Dutch international is admitting to diving.

Is it now about time that the footballing authorities be it FIFA, UEFA or national football associations, took steps and serious steps to clear this sort of cheating out of the game. Being an ex-referee, all be it only at local parks and works league standard, I am sure most referees would not take it as a slight if the appropriate authorities having got video proof that a player cheated took stronger action because let's face it most of these so called 'sportsmen' are so good with their cheating actions it is difficult and sometimes impossible to see with the naked eye at full speed. I am equally sure that many a Hollywood star is glad that acting in football matches does not qualify in the Oscars as their performances would be a serious threat.

I feel sure most referee would welcome any assistance they can get to clear out the cheats that are blighting this game many of us both enjoy and pay hard earned money to watch. We hear comments from various 'footballers' that this and that is all part of the game but cheating and attempting to endanger the livelihood of your fellow professionals is not. As one London based French player once said if you feel a touch you are entitled to fall over. You are not, it is cheating.

So come on you footballing authorities do your jobs.

E J JOHNSON, Smethwick

Two-way street on speeding

IT seems ironic that on a recent front page of the Express & Star, there is a story about an elderly couple being killed in Oldbury by a motorist driving at 84 in a 40 mph limit and then inside Nigel Hastilow writes on page 8, one of the usual hard done by driver's articles about motorists having to drive at speed limits that are too slow.

This is typical of the average motorist who believes in nothing else but getting where he wants as quickly and as directly as possible. Very few motorists take any notice of speed limits which if Mr Hastilow spent a bit of time as a bus passenger or a pedestrian I am sure he would soon realise just like the motorist who tried to run me over the other day as I crossed Dudley Road East to the bus stop.

When speed cameras were relaxed on the Wolverhampton Road it was not uncommon to see cars at 70 or 80mph.

H CAMWELL, Oldbury

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Bank coining it in with bureaucracy

AS the chairman of a local charity I needed to supply a funding body with a bank statement not more than three months old. Simples you would think.

In days of old efficiency, it would have been an easy matter to order a bank statement. Not now. Alerted to the fact that only a signatory can order a statement, I went with a signatory to the bank equipped with their identification. Surprisingly none was required. It could have been anyone.

'You are supposed to get monthly statements' the cashier says informed by the computer oracle. We say we don't get them monthly. Cashier: 'Well how often do you use the account?' Was it wholly frivolous to respond, 'When we need to?' 'Then', says she, 'you will not get a statement unless there is a new transaction'. A solution is offered, 'Would you like to do internet banking?' Unfortunately 'No thank you' was the wrong answer.

The cashier pressed the destruct button, 'You can order a statement but you won't get one until there is another transaction on the account'. Perhaps because of a lengthening queue behinds, ultimately pity was taken on us. On the payment of 1p into the account we were promised a statement. What a rigmarole. So it only takes a 1p bribe in Wednesbury to unlock the secrets of one's own account.

K VAUGHAN, Wednesbury

Shop was part of my childhood

I CALLED into Barclays paper shop the bottom of Grafton Road the other day. It's at the bottom of Grafton which runs on to the estate I grew up an after moving from Portway Road in Oldbury.

I noticed the 'For Sale' sign up and stood for a while, a little shocked to see this business which has been a big part of mine and many people's lives.

I remember my dad calling in for his paper on the way to Accles or mom with my aunts and neighbours on the way to Clarke's in Penncricket Lane to work on the lathes and drillers. I know I speak for all the people of that area and those who passed every day and called in when I wish Robert, his wife and all the family a happy retirement and thank him for all the great memories that fuel such pieces I perform as 'Boy who Collected Shells' and 'One Step from the Line'.

B DAKIN (AKA Billy Spake Mon), Tividale

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Pledge by firm over rebuild of fire-hit site

DEVELOPERS behind a £7.1 million rebuild of Wednesbury Leisure Centre say they will try to keep delays to the work to a minimum in the wake of a devastating arson attack.

Investigations are continuing into the blaze at the closed down centre, in High Bullen. A fire broke out there at around 12.30am last Tuesday.

It caused severe building damage and required the efforts of three fire crews to bring under control. But the blaze, which started at the rear of the centre and raged for three hours, destroyed about 25 per cent of the 1960s building.

Two firefighters even had to be taken to Sandwell General Hospital for a precautionary check after suffering the effects of smoke inhalation and debris in their eyes. The site was handed over to developers Interserve following checks.

Interserve has been contracted by Sandwell Council to carry out work to create a new leisure centre there, boasting a 25-metre pool, learner pool, two dance studios and a fitness suite.

by Lisa O'Brien

A spokesman for Interserve said the firm was working with emergency services to investigate the damage.

"We are working with police and fire services to pinpoint what caused the fire, and are in touch with health and safety to ensure the site is safe, so that we can get in and assess the damage," he said.

"The redevelopment of Wednesbury Leisure Centre is an important resource for the local community and we are working with Sandwell Council to ensure that disruption and delay is minimised as much as possible."

£20k campaign starts over roof

Church warden Jeff Johnson is pictured outside the church which was targeted by copper thieves

WORSHIPPERS at a parish church where thieves ripped copper from the roof of the hall forcing a lunch club to cancel meetings have launched a £20,000 fundraising campaign to cover the cost of the repairs.

Two-thirds of the roof at All Saints' Parish Church, in Darlaston, were stolen after it was targeted two nights in a row, resulting in rain leaking into the kitchen.

Members have so far raised £7,000 towards a replacement. Now they are set to host two summer concerts that will include an appearance by opera singer Ralph Meanley, who was born in the town, to boost the appeal.

Birmingham's Phoenix Brass Band will kick of the series at the Walsall Road premises on Saturday. Tickets will cost £10. The second concert will feature Warley Male Voice Choir on July 19 with Mr Meanley, who has performed all over the world, the guest soloist. Tickets will cost £7.50 for

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Jayplas back on its feet one year on from blaze

IT was the biggest fire ever tackled by firefighters in the West Midlands and was sparked by a floating sky lantern.

Thousands of tons of plastic and paper went up in flames tackled by more than 200 firefighters at Jayplas Ltd in Smethwick.

Smoke could be seen 60 miles away, roads were closed, buses diverted and a school shut by the huge blaze, which broke out 12 months ago on June 30, 2013.

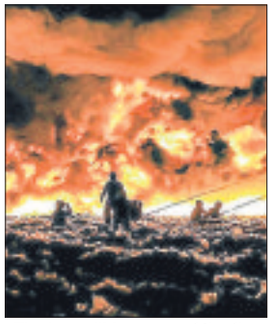
The firm was closed for more six months following the devastating inferno which caused £6million of damage. Now one year on it is back on its feet after bosses rebuilt the fire-ravaged recycling centre. And West Midlands Fire Service says progress is also being made to help prevent similar blazes at recycling plants in the future.

As well as calling for a code of practice for the storage of waste and recycling materials, the fire brigade demanded a review of the sale and use of the lanterns. CCTV footage showed a lantern descending onto the piles of plastic at Dartmouth Road site. Within eight minutes, the fire had taken hold.

After the fire, superstore Poundland withdraw all airborne lanterns from sale, a move welcomed by fire and rescue services across the country. It was also the third blaze at a recycling plant in the West Midlands in less than three months – the others being at Lawrence Recycling in Kidderminster and Pelican Foods in Stourport.

Phil Hales, Deputy Chief Fire Officer of the West Midlands, said: "The fire demonstrated our responsiveness as a fire and rescue service. It's crucial that we all understand the impact of growing numbers of recycling plants and storage sites. We need the best fire prevention and control measures in place. We welcome national moves towards addressing fire safety issues associated with recycling and waste management."

Councillor John Edwards, chairman of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, said: "The fire was the biggest in the history of our service. Our excellent, whole-time crews responded quickly and in large numbers to control and contain the incident. Over the last four years our firefighter numbers and budgets have been cut substantially, and more cuts are forecast. In the context of the Smethwick fire, that causes great concerns."


The incredible scene of the fire

An aerial photo of the depot blaze

The aftermath of the devastating fire

Councillor John Edwards

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Holly hoping to be on song in contests

A TEENAGER is hoping to sing her way to stardom after reaching the finals of two national competitions.

Holly Wright has been performing at festivals, fairs and fun days across the Black Country for the past few years.

But now the 14-year-old from Old Hill is hoping to wow the judges in two national competitions.

The St Michael's pupil will be performing in the grand final of Teen Star at the NEC in Birmingham on July 19, before heading to Blackpool on September 26 for the Talent Fest UK final.

She said: "I'm not nervous actually, I think I get more excited than anything else.

"I'll be singing Show Me Heaven by Maria McKee, as it's a song I really like."

The potential pop star, from Forest Drive, started singing at just aged nine when her primary school teacher convinced her parents to get her some singing lessons.

Scotland

Ever since she has been performing around the West Midlands, and has even been as far away as Scotland to put on some shows.

Parents Michelle and Andrew have been supporting her through her early career, ferrying her around the country.

Mrs Wright said: "It's mum and dad's taxi – wherever Holly sings we go out, she's taken us up and down the country.

"She got through to the Teen Fest final after a heat in Chepstow in May, and she has been to the NEC twice already in the Teen Star competition.

"We love it, absolutely love it.

"I have said it before, but we don't know where her singing comes from, because we don't know anyone else in the family that can sing."

Holly Wright, 14, who has reached the national finals of two singing competitions

Holly is set to go to the Birmingham Ormiston Academy for creative and performing arts in September to learn more about a career in the arts.

She added: "I hope it will bring more confidence out in me, and I'll see what choices I can make to see where I want to go."

Meanwhile, anyone interested in seeing Holly singing can catch her performing at the OH Festival on Saturday at Spring Meadow Social Club in Old Hill.

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Dance led to romance for Geoff and Emily

Diamond days – Geoff and Emily Dodd, from Tipton, who have been celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary

The couple seen on their wedding

THE perseverance of a Tipton man to have a dance with a young lady certainly paid off, as the couple celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss.

Emily and Geoff Dodd marked their diamond wedding anniversary on July 3, after first meeting at a dance in 1951. Refusing to take no for an answer, Mr Dodd persisted in asking Emily to dance with him.

Mr Dodd, now 86, said: "Even when she moaned to her mate that I kept going over to her, I carried on and finally we started dating." Mrs Dodd, aged 82, said: "He kept pestering me to dance with him and one night on the last bus home we got talking." The couple were married at St John's Church in Tipton on July 3, 1954.

The newly weds celebrated at a community hall in Toll End. Mrs Dodd remembers: "It was a lovely day, we had lovely weather." They moved to Glebefield Road, Tipton more than 50 years ago. They have three children Stephen, Janice and Elaine and have six grandchildren. To mark the occasion the couple returned St John's for

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Molineux gardens in 1866 with the pavilion behind the house

Molineux Hotel when the Ring Road was being built

Molineux Hotel pictured back in the 1940s

An aerial view of Molineux in the 1950s

Molineux borne out of 'Rotton' beginnings

MEMORY LANE
By Alec Brew

IN 1720 a man named John Rotton decided to build himself a house. We do not know who Mr Rotton was, but he may well have been a prominent bucklemaker, which was an important trade in Wolverhampton.

If the contractor he chose gathered his men by the Town Hall at the top of High Green (now Queen Square), which seems a likely spot they would have walked down High Green and turned right at the bottom into Tup Street (now North Street).

They would have passed the Red Lion and three Prebend houses, and Giffard House to a piece of land of about eight acres at the top of Wadhams Hill.

Mr Rotton had them line up his new house facing St Peter's Church, but at the rear there was a fine view over open countryside, stretching to Tettenhall ridge, with Chillington Hall visible 10 miles away.

John Rotton only lived in his new house for about 20 years, because he died in 1743 and because he died owing a local ironmaster named John Molineux £700, his widow came to an agreement handing over the house in payment.

Impressed

John Molineux was so impressed with the house that he decided to make it the family's main residence, and it was greatly extended, with formal gardens stretching down the hill.

As time went on Wolverhampton expanded, Waterloo Road was cut across the hill and new housing built, and as the 19th Century progressed, a whole new suburb, Newhampton, was built, and instead of a fine view across open countryside, Molineux House looked out on ranks of smoky rooftops.

In 1860 the Molineux family sold the house and by 1870 it had been turned into a hotel, with its gardens becoming Wolverhampton's first public park, albeit with an entry fee.

To bring in the crowds various sporting activities were promoted, and cycle races in particular drew in crowds of up to 20,000 people.

Across town a football team borne out of St Luke's church was drawing large crowds at its Dudley Road ground, and was looking for a bigger stadium.

A deal was struck, the lake in Molineux Gardens was filled in, and a football pitch and stands were constructed and Wolverhampton Wanderers began its long relationship with the ground which still retains the name Molineux.

How fortunate that the name of the original owner of the house did not adhere to the property, because it would now be Rotton House and Rotton Stadium.

The bowling greens at the back of Molineux

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Desrine desires to help less fortunate

President Jan Beason offers the hand of friendship to new member Desrine McNichol

WOLVERHAMPTON SOROPTIMISTS

AT the June meeting President Jan Beason installed Desrine McNichol as SI Wolverhampton's newest member.

Desrine is a chiropodist, running her own business in West Bromwich, loves to travel and visit the theatre and cinema. She would like to become more involved with club projects for the less fortunate.

Jan reported she had attended her first dinner as new president at St John's House, Lichfield. She had also attended the SI Regional Conference at Patshull Park. Unfortunately, she had been unable to attend on the Saturday when Gail Wedge gave a fascinating presentation on behalf of the Wolverhampton club.

The annual strawberry tea at Abbeyfield Parkdale was on July 5 and planning is well under way for the 1940s evening on July 19, which is being held early so that children can attend.

At the business meeting reports were given from the SI Chase Conference and members of the club had attended the WOW evening held at Molineux on June 11.

Captivated by chocolate tailor's talk

COVEN WI

THE June meeting was well supported and the joint presidents welcomed everyone.

Jerusalem was sung, the minutes were read and agreed and members informed of events around the county. All formal business was concluded.

Jackie Roberts, 'The Chocolate Tailor' was welcomed to the meeting. She had a captive audience.

Jackie's background was 10 years in the hotel trade then college lecturing. She has an adventurous spirit who enjoys off-road driving and sailing.

After attending courses she became a chocolate tailor, the title depicting a bespoke chocolate maker.

The club learned about the ethos of her business and the science and history of chocolate. She is also involved in primary schools, sells at farmers' markets and is an accomplished speaker.

Ladies were given samples to try and saw a variety of moulds. She had a table full of her delicious chocolate items for sale.

Heather, a Coven member joined other WI at the national conference. She gave a detailed account of her mostly positive experience and said it was an enjoyable learning environment.

Retired president Jo brought along a cake to share, celebrating her 80th birthday. She thanked members for their gift and flowers. Money raised from a plant stall will go to First Responders. Refreshments and a raffle followed.

Laburnum Arch in full flower

PENN TG

MRS Sutton introduced Mr & Mrs Fawdrey with a talk entitled 'Only when the Plane comes in'.

Mr Fawdrey described how the MAF, Mission Aviation Fellowship, came into being.

After the Second World War, there were many pilots and engineers who were willing to give their services to the Christian Aviation charity. In many isolated communities a visit to hospital could mean a two to three day walk, but with MAF, it becomes an 11-minute flight. They now operate in 25 developing countries.

The Gardening Group enjoyed a visit to Bodnant Gardens in North Wales and were lucky enough to see the Laburnum Arch in full flower.

Social Studies speaker was Iain Watkins, head of marketing & communications at the Grand Theatre.

A strawberry supper for members only takes place on July 23.

Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road. New members and visitors are welcome.

Talk about hospital an eye-opener

WALSALL CENTRAL

AS the chairman of Walsall Central Townswomen's Guild was on vacation the chairman-elect Ann Smith fronted the July meeting.

Following the formal matters it was announced that due to unforeseen circumstances the scheduled speaker for the evening was unable to be present, but the speakers' secretary had been lucky enough to secure the aid of Lawrence Parkes, whose "day job" was Federation Treasurer but was also passionately involved in the charity Hamlin Fistula UK.

This charity supported the Addis Abada Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia which had been set up in 1974 by Drs Reginald and Catherine Hamlin.

It cares for women with devastating childbirth and related injuries. All care, treatment and surgery is completely free of charge.

Since its opening, great advancements have been made, but there remains much more to be achieved. Unfortunately Dr Reginald Hamlin died in 1993, but his wife, Catherine – now 90 years of age – continues with the work they began together.

The presentation by Lawrence was truly eye-opening and everyone in the room that evening felt very humbled by the wonderful work being carried out.

The chairman-elect announced that future social events included a cream tea at the home of the chairman Pat Jones on July 17 and there will be a coffee morning/bring and buy at a member's home on August 5.

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Top cop targeting all areas of crime

Focus on Tipton

EVERYTHING from human trafficking and domestic abuse to criminal damage and inconsiderate parking is being targeted by a new top cop in the Black Country.

Chief Superintendent Matthew Ward has only been in the job for five weeks, but is already clear on what his priorities are for policing in the borough.

He said he wants to target 'both those things that cause the most concern to people, and the things that cause the most harm to people'.

"They can be two very different things," he said. "Things like anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, burglary and cars being broken into, people are feeling those things and we need to address them.

"But there's also a lot of serious crime that people don't see, such as domestic abuse, exploitation, human trafficking, that take place in all communities but often with hidden victims. So my job is to get the balance right in both of those areas."

Ch Supt Ward has already been speaking to members of the community about their main concerns, and will be feeding them into his plans for the local force.

Already he has signed off a dispersal order in parts of Tipton, which was brought into force on Tuesday for six months and will see a crackdown on anti-social behaviour there.

He said: "The main concerns I'm hearing about tend to be around noise nuisance and driving-related offences, inconsiderate parking around places like schools, those very visible things that have a day-to-day impact on people's lives. My job is to ensure that my teams are working with the right people to find some long-term solutions."

He will also be involved in coordinating his teams with other organisations in the borough, such as the council and the voluntary sector, to find solutions to problems that may not fall under the remit of the police.

A father to six-year-old twins, Ch Supt Ward, aged 40, has been in policing for 19 years in a career that has taken him all over the West Midlands and seen him investigate some of the region's most serious crimes, including the Handsworth riots of 2005.

Ch Supt Matthew Ward, at West Bromwich Police Station, Moor Street

Originally from Newcastle-under-Lyme, it was a chance meeting with an inspector that led the Cambridge-educated law graduate to a career in the police. He said: "My decision to join was based on a school project I had to do when I was 14 in which I had to interview someone.

"I didn't have any ideas, but the bus I used to catch home from school stopped next to a police station. I decided to walk in and ask them, and the next thing I knew the duty inspector at the time walked out and gave me an hour's interview about his career. That left a completely lasting impression on me."

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Library project workers urged to come forward

IT has become one of the most iconic sights on the Birmingham skyline.

And now workers behind the city's £190 million new library are being urged to come forward and be honoured for their work on the landmark project.

Men and women who helped build the city centre library have been called on by the Construction Industry Training Board to make themselves known for an award.

It comes after the library was chosen by the board as one of five iconic buildings in the country.

The library has become famous for its 5,357 interlocking metal circles which encase the 11-storey building.

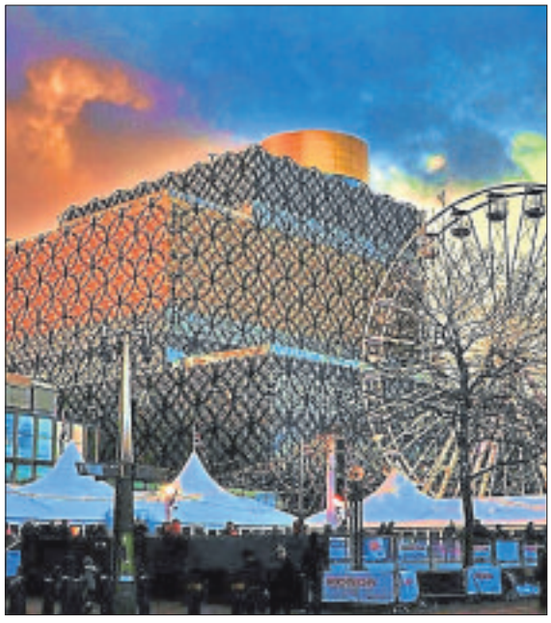
It is also covered in lights, which make Europe's biggest library shine at night.

The Construction Industry Training Board, which is the skills body for the construction industry, wants to award the builders for their skills, expertise and hard work.

As well as receiving industry recognition for their achievement, one representative from the building project will be selected to attend the organisation's Pride of Construction Award in London.

Mick O'Flynn, the board's regional delivery manager for Central England, said, "We are looking for anyone involved on the construction of the Library of Birmingham in some capacity, whether as a labourer, scaffolder, site manager or an architect. Whatever your contribution was to its construction, we want to hear from you.

"We hope that many of the people who worked on the Library of Birmingham will take the opportunity to come forward and make themselves known to us. We are looking forward to paying tribute to the individuals who made this iconic building possible and sharing their stories with the industry. We hope the winners will enjoy meeting the country's leading construction industry representatives at our exclusive Pride of Construction Awards evening as well."



The now iconic landmark library in Birmingham city centre

The other iconic buildings chosen by the board were The Gherkin in London, The Etihad Stadium in Manchester, The First Direct Arena in Leeds and the Sage in Gateshead. Birmingham's new library was officially opened last year by teenager Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by the Taliban for championing girls' rights to go to school in Pakistan.

Advertisement Feature

NEW SQUARE SET TO CELEBRATE FIRST BIRTHDAY WITH CARNIVAL PARTY AND FAMILY FUN

A carnival themed party will arrive at New Square West Bromwich this Friday and Saturday to celebrate the shopping centre's first birthday.

The two-day extravaganza, taking place on the 11th and 12th July will include calypso music, dancing, family games, surf simulator, face painting, street food and even a limbo competition!

The carnival atmosphere will be created with live music from a steel pan calypso band and the smells from the Caribbean Food Shack – serving traditional street food. Shoppers will also be entertained by Limbo performers as they demonstrate their skills and flexibility – giving away prizes to those who are brave enough to get down low and give it a go themselves!

On Saturday New Square will resemble Rio as professional Carnival Dancers arrive to perform a number of show stopping routines around the shopping centre. Also on Saturday there will be a range of fun activities for the family to enjoy, such as a surf simulator, juice bikes and free face painting.

Many of New Square's stores and restaurants will also be entering into to the party spirit, with a range of offers and competitions. Outfit will be giving away hundreds of gift cards plus a free nail bar in store, while Nando's and Harvester have a range of activities planned including free sampling, fancy dress and giveaways.

New Square would like as many people as possible to get into the party spirit and is asking customers to take carnival themed selfies at the centre and post them on Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #NewSquareselfie – the best picture will win a £100 worth of Outfit vouchers.

They'll also be a chance for visitors to win The Ultimate New Square Experience – the prize will include shopping and restaurant vouchers from retailers such as Bank, Outfit, Primark, Blue Inc, Nando's and Harvester, plus cinema ticket for Odeon and a host of other freebies!

All activities are free and take place between 11am-4pm.

For more information visit:
www.newsquarewestbromwich.co.uk
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A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

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Melodic mixture of acoustic music

Jess Burgess

Olly Flavell

Jen Robins

Richard Wellington

Review

Baddies' Boogie, Newhampton Arts Centre, W-ton

ANOTHER raft of talented individuals from all over the Midlands were brought together in Whitmore Reans by promoters Baddies' Boogie for more thoroughly enjoyable acoustic music.

This offering was probably the most eclectic yet with the Silhouettes and their indie/electronica sound; the sophisticated sound of Jess Burgess and the singing of Richard Wellington all of who hail from Wolverhampton.

Dotted in between were Newport's Olly Flavell and the big sound of Stourbridge's Jen Robins.

Opener Flavell fell victim to a broken string but was soon back on stage singing his version of the much-covered Valerie. Flavell has a really solid and tuneful voice but he does try too hard to sound soulful and crowds his singing with vocal tricks.He does have a good range but it felt as if he was trying to use every trick in the book and consequently his voice was up and down, with harmonies sometimes sounding forced. Jen Robins took over with her likeable girlish singing and a definite confident stage presence. She too has a strong, tuneful voice with that Dolly Parton warble underneath occasionally. However, similar to Flavell, she tries too hard to have this soulful diva sound which she honestly doesn't need. Robins' voice is good, powerful and produces some lovely deep harmonies which remind sometimes of the legend Parton.

Distinctive

She was followed by Jess Burgess who has a very distinctive voice and sophisticated sound. At first she looked a little uncomfortable on stage but she launched into her first track Mardy Bum with confidence sounding uncannily like Lily Allen when she first burst onto the pop scene.

There is this air of coolness about her and she looked as sophisticated as she sounded. She really gave an example of how strong and clear her voice was with her version of White Noise from Disclosure. Taking over the stage next, quite literally with a bewildering array of wires, gizmos and equipment, were Silhouettes.

This time they were a mere duo of Nathan Till and Jay Cuthill although they do have a bigger line up. Till, who did most of the singing, has a melancholic voice and their sound harkens back to the experimental sounds of early Pink Floyd but you can definitely hear influences from Radiohead, Massive Attack and Coldplay in there. Their sound is thoughtful, ethereal, clever and multi-stranded almost, in some cases, psychedelic. Finishing off the night was Richard Wellington and to be fair to Wellington his nerves got the better of him.

More used to being part of a group, Militia Inc, being up on stage alone with a guitar did him no favours. Picking a massive song like Black Sabbath's Paranoid and committing the schoolboy error of not tuning the instrument beforehand didn't help either.

But you have to give Wellington his due, it's not easy to stand in the spotlight all alone in front of an audience where there is nowhere to hide. Also to his credit Wellington was not afraid to tackle the big numbers, but he never really relaxed. It wasn't that bad a performance and it would certainly be worth hearing him again.

The next Baddies' Boogie is July 19 in the upstairs room of Talk, Birmingham.

Danny Farragher

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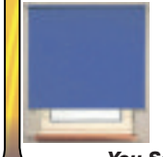

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Medics' 4x4 fleet after £2.2m boost

MORE than a dozen new 4x4 ambulances are to be introduced in the West Midlands under a £2.2million investment from the region's ambulance service.

The 16 Mercedes vehicles will mean paramedics will be able to reach patients in difficult weather and muddy off-road conditions.

The fleet is being brought in by West Midlands Ambulance Service, which already has more than 300 ambulances and 200 rapid response vehicles.

It is hoped each hub, including Willenhall, West Bromwich and Dudley, will get its own 4x4 vehicle.

Craig Cooke, support services director, said: "The new vehicles will mean that for the first time we will have a full size ambulance with 4x4 capabilities.

"This investment in new vehicles will help us provide high quality clinical services to people who suffer serious injuries or medical conditions when they are out and about on uneven and difficult to access terrain.

"This should improve the comfort and care to patients and offer a much better working environment for our staff."

Prom-goers Sandeep Kumar and Ellison Tipton are seen arriving on their mobility scooters

Boys just want to have fun at their school prom

MOST youngsters turn up to their school prom in a flashy limousine or classy sports car – but not this pair.

Best friends Sandeep Kumar and Ellison Tipton chose a more unfashionable mode of transport when they arrived on the back of mobility scooters.

As they pulled up outside the Village Hotel in Walsall for the Willenhall E-Act Academy Year 11 prom, the pair were greeted by roars of laughter and parents took videos of the moment.

Sixteen-year-old Ellison said: "We wanted to do something different, not just turn up in a limousine so we chose mobility scooters. "I borrowed mine from my nan Sandra and Sandeep hired one from a shop. My nan had to show me how to drive it.

"It wasn't hard to pick it up. When we pulled up in the car park everyone was laughing. They thought it was hilarious and people were taking videos."

The party was held last Tuesday, and senior assistant principal Leighton Thomas said everyone had enjoyed themselves.

He said: "We normally have youngsters turning up on a horse and carriage, limousines or sports cars. We've never had a mobility scooter before. Sandeep and Ellison are top lads.

"All the parents who were stood on the car park thought it was hilarious when the boys pulled up on their scooters.

"I was on car park duty and could just hear roars of laughter.

"We had about 150 kids at the prom. It was a great night."

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Travellers' caravans take over two sites

The encampment has moved in on a site off Newton Road

DOZENS of travellers' caravans have moved onto two separate council-owned sites just two miles apart in the Black Country.

Residents living near one of the sites, which is a playing field used by children's football teams, have complained about littering.

By Adam Grinsell

They also say they are now scared to walk around the site, off Meadow Avenue in West Bromwich after around 12 caravans moved in last Tuesday night. At the second site, also on playing fields off nearby Newton Road near the All Saints Church, around 20 caravans have moved on to the field.

Two police officers in a van kept watch of the site last Friday. One resident living near to the camp at Meadow Avenue, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "On Wednesday morning I could see something through the bushes and my first thought was someone had put a tent up.

"But then I could see the gates were open, and they are always locked.

"It's used as a playing field by lots of football teams, and it's especially busy this time of year."

Several more caravans have moved onto the site, which is overlooked by three tower blocks, since the first group arrived on Tuesday.

Residents there have also complained of a generator being used at night.

Sandwell Council's deputy leader Councillor Mahboob Hussain said the authority was currently working with the police to take back the land. He said: "Once the travellers leave, the land will be made secure to prevent future encampments and the sites will be cleaned up. "These encampments are an inconvenience to local people and they cost the council thousands of pounds in taxpayers' money to clear up in a time of cuts to the council's budget. I would urge the Government to look again at the legislation to enable us to remove encampments that cause problems more quickly.

He added: "No football matches are booked on these pitches this weekend as it's outside the football season. Any teams who train on this pitch should get in touch with our parks team on 0121 569 3427."

Walk in the Lakes

A trip for a walk in the Lake District is being put on by the West Bromwich Mountaineering Club.

On Saturday the group will be leaving by coach from Edward Street car park in West Bromwich at 7am, with a pick up in Penkridge at 7.20am. They will be heading to Langdale, with a choice of four walking routes when there. The coach will depart from Ambleside at 9pm, getting back to West Bromwich around midnight.

Guests are welcome to attend and the cost will be £22. There may be funding for individuals that have a West Bromwich postcode, but this should be confirmed on booking, contact coach secretary Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

Skills boost for youngsters at council

Jaswant Sembhi, work experience co-ordinator and Kevin Dwyer, council web manager, with the youngsters

FIVE college students have boosted their job prospects and learned new skills following a Walsall council work placement.

Media and ICT students Ashley Coupland, aged 18, Jack Rowland, 17, Annie Constable, 19, Hayley Leaver, 17, and James Russell, 17, did a 10-week work experience placement with the communications and web management teams. Annie and Ashley helped to develop a new registry office website and kept members of the public up to date during the council's european election coverage.

While Jack, Hayley and James put together case studies and press releases, took promotional photographs of businesses and interviewed apprentices at Walsall's Manor Hospital.

Walsall College's work experience co-ordinator Jaswant Sembhi said: "Real work experience can have a real impact for both the student and the employer and I'm pleased to say that Walsall Council has agreed to continue this successful partnership by taking on further students from September onwards."

Schools in £1m staff bill

MORE than £1 million was spent on agency staff at schools across Walsall in just five months, it has emerged.

The outlay on temporary workers was made in the borough between January and May, according to latest figures.

Around £1.09m was spent on covering the likes of sickness absence, maternity cover and staff who are off site for other reasons. Some schools used a number of agencies and the amount spent ranged from £8.38 to £46,101 in the period January 1 to May 16.

Councillor Mohammed Arif, portfolio holder for children's services at Walsall Council, said there are occasions where schools have to use supply staff. "Making sure that children have the very best chance to learn and achieve well every day is a key priority in every Walsall school," he said.

"From time to time teachers and support staff may be supporting off site activities, involved in professional development or on sick leave. Where there are gaps that can't be filled internally, schools will make use of supply staff, through their delegated school budgets."

It comes after an overhaul of the education system in Walsall which saw the council terminate its £345 million contract with private firm Serco.

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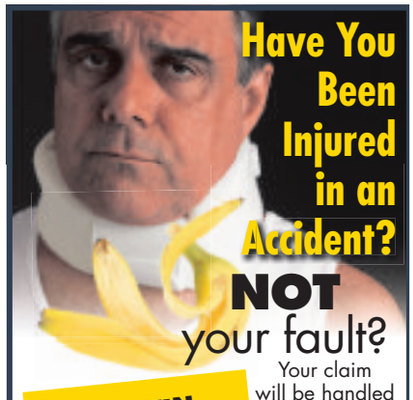

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220 people evacuated after restaurant fire

MORE than 200 people had to be evacuated from a hotel when a fire broke out in a takeaway restaurant.

The blaze started just before 6.30am on Tuesday in The Food Republic on Broad Street in Birmingham, and at its height eight fire engines and around 40 firefighters were on the scene, including staff from Smethwick fire station.

Around 220 guests were evacuated by staff of the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, which is above the restaurant. Firefighters also checked the hotel to make sure no-one else was inside.

Fourteen firefighters wearing breathing apparatus tackled the fire, which was extinguished by 7.50am.

The extent of the damage is not yet known, and investigators are currently working on finding out the cause of the blaze, which is believed to be suspicious.

The hotel was not available for comment, but it is understood smoke issuing from the fire was the reason behind the evacuation.

Highgate fire station wrote on its Twitter account: "The fire on Broad Street this morning was at Food Republic. Smoke affected the @Hampton Hilton hotel which necessitated an evacuation."

Meanwhile, Broad Street was closed heading out of the city between Sheepcote Street and Ryland Street, causing havoc for rush hour traffic around the immediate area.

Twitter user @SarahACromwell wrote: "I hope none of you are stuck in the Broad Street fire, complete chaos. Hagley Road will be a living nightmare."

A fire also broke out this morning at the Bramford Arms in Tipton Road, Sedgley, at around 7.15am. The fire, which was sparked by an electrical fault, started in the cellar. The cleaner raised the alarm, and firefighters wearing breathing apparatus were able to contain the fire to the cellar.

Dudley watch commander Andrew Froggatt said: "The fire was caused by an electrical fault with the incoming supply. Thankfully the fire could be confined to the room of origin because of good information from the cleaner on arrival and the actions of the breathing apparatus crew." General manager, Alex Lacey, added: "We had a little electrical fire that was confined to a small storage area."

Smethwick firefighters attending a fire on Broad Street, Birmingham

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Camera-shy because of failing teeth, images of a dream Caribbean wedding are missing a mum's proud smile but now she's . . .

THE SUN shone, the sea was as blue as the cloudless sky and a small, family group celebrated a wedding on the shoreline of paradise.

With the warm, golden sand beneath their feet, they toasted the happy couple and made memories that would last lifetimes.

Runaway Bay, one of the jewels of the Caribbean, had it all – magic, romance, a spectacular setting and the ultimate backdrop for wedding album pictures – and there were plenty to be taken.

But one person was noticeably absent from the captured images of the smiles, laughter and celebrations on that special day.

Only a single frame – a group shot ,and not a close-up – featured the groom's proud mum. Jan had travelled more than 4,600 miles to embrace the Big Day moment with five others in the wedding party, but in her own words, "I didn't feel right."

Teeth were a mess

Everything was perfect, everyone was happy and "it was a lovely, lovely day," but Jan deliberately melted into the background every time the cameras clicked.

"I wouldn't have my picture taken," she confesses. "I know it seems strange, but I did not want to spoil the day for my son. That's the way I felt. Everything was lovely, I'd taken some lovely clothes, the setting was lovely and you couldn't have wished for better . . . the people, the ceremony in the pagoda, the beach bungalow where we stayed and the way the locals were so friendly to us.

"But my teeth were a mess. When I smiled you couldn't see any of my teeth and I was so embarrassed at the way they looked, I not only spoke with my hand in front of my mouth, I ate like that too," Jan, from Kidderminster, recalls.

Jan is all smiles as she tends one of her acer trees in her garden.

As the groom's mum, the focus of attention was emotionally crippling.

Now in her 60s, Jan's troubles began some 40 years ago. Suffering with a gum disorder in her lower jaw, her dentist carried out a full clearance.

"I had four lower teeth in the front where the trouble was, but I was told I had to lose them all. In those days you just accepted it. It was a horrible experience and those experiences stay with you," she says. Jan tolerated a catalogue of prosthetic prescriptions which never "felt comfortable or looked right" and for 15 years her food choices were seriously compromised.

"I couldn't eat apples, or pears, or steak and every time I went to a restaurant I'd have to order fish. My gums were always sore and I couldn't chew properly," she adds.

Jan's self-esteem hit rock bottom until she saw an article in the newspaper about Steven Burchell's work at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"My husband said I should book an appointment and I told him that he needed to get laser surgery on his eyes. He said 'I can live with glasses, but you can't live without your teeth."

It was true: Meeting Jan now is an engaging experience and she loves her new look.

"I'm planning to go back for our 50th wedding anniversary... *guess who won't be frightened to have their picture taken then?"*

"On the picture from the wedding my face seems so small, but my whole appearance has changed since meeting Steven. My only regret is that I didn't meet him earlier," she adds.

Steven CDT DipRCS(Eng) says: "Jan came to me with dentures that were not really helping here. She had a lot of gum and bone erosion – a natural ageing process – and her dentures were not stable.

Remarkable outcome

"She was not a suitable candidate for implant-retained over-dentures to address the stabilisation issues, so we make her some high quality, traditional dentures, ensuring a precise fit with the cutting-edge technology we have a the clinic. The clinical outcome was remarkable."

Says Jan, who has now taken her 85-year-old mother for some new teeth at the Denture Clinic: "All the way home after my new teeth were fitted I kept looking in the car's vanity mirror and smiling at myself. I was so chuffed.

"I'm planning to go back to Runaway Bay with my husband in 2016 for our 50th wedding anniversary and guess who won't be frightened to have their picture taken then?"

As for her experience with Denture Clinic: "Simply the best! I can't thank Steven and his team enough."

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Two-tier market fear over property prices

HOUSE prices in parts of the West Midlands are lower now than at the worst point in the recession, despite a national upturn in the market.

Fears of a two-tier recovery were raised as houses in areas like Bilston were shown to have dropped eight per cent in value since 2009 while a home in affluent Solihull has shot up 16 per cent.

Areas like Wolverhampton and Walsall have seen a little change since 2009 but a sudden increase in the past year. Yet homes in Stourbridge, Dudley, Kidderminster, Willenhall and Cannock are all being sold for less now than five years ago.

According to figures from the Halifax, In Bilston an average home will change hands for £107,008, compared with £268,042 in Solihull. But despite the low growth in prices, four out of five properties on the market are out of reach of the average working family looking to buy their first home, according to housing charity Shelter.

Foam surrounds the scene at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport after the crash last week

Pilot's lucky escape after wheel collapses on landing

A PILOT had a lucky escape after his plane crashed during landing at an airport in South Staffordshire.

The Piper PA-28 Cherokee was coming into land at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport at Bobbington, near Stourbridge, on July 2 at 11am when its front wheel collapsed causing it to skid along the runway.

The plane was being flown by a male pilot and there were no passengers on board at the time of the crash.

Fire crews based at the airport were scrambled to the plane and sprayed it with foam to prevent any fire starting.

Airport officials say that the pilot was uninjured. They were unable to reveal where the plane was flying from.

Alastair Mackinnon, the operational manager at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport, said: "At around 11am the Piper PA-8 Cherokee has come into land and as it has done so the front wheel has collapsed.

"It has skidded along the run way and come to a stop – it was a simple collision.

"One male was on board, the pilot, and there were no injuries. The fire service that is based at the airport sprayed the plane with foam but this was precautionary and to prevent any possibility of a fire starting."

Campaign to tackle rising tide of sex abuse cases

THERE were 225 cases of child sexual exploitation in the West Midlands in a year and the disturbing trend is still growing

The figures have been revealed as a campaign is launched to save protect from abuse.

Councils and police have banded together to set up the 'See Me, Hear Me' campaign to encourage people to spot the warning signs of abuse in a child's behaviour.

by Daniel Wainwright

A website has been launched which contains information about the 'hidden crime' of child sex exploitation (CSE). Information packs are being offered as well as guidance for people who work in hotels, leisure centres and taxi companies.

Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Coventry, Birmingham and Solihull councils are involved with West Midlands Police.

Hidden

There were 82 cases of CSE in Birmingham in 2013/14, 34 in Sandwell, 29 in Dudley, 29 in Walsall, 20 in Wolverhampton, 15 in Solihull and 16 in Coventry — the numbers are increasing. Since April 2014 alone there have been 65 more cases in Birmingham, 21 in Wolverhampton, nine in Dudley, four in Sandwell, three in Walsall, 15 in Coventry and five in Solihull.

The rise has been put down to the work of a specialist team identifying cases that would previously have been recorded differently.

Stephen Rimmer, West Midlands lead for tackling CSE, said: "Child sexual exploitation has been a hidden crime for far too long. The perpetrators deliberately target some of our most vulnerable children, whether online or in public places, and believe they will not be caught. This has to end now.

"For the first time, all of the agencies with responsibility for tackling this abuse across the West Midlands are working to common standards of reporting and investigation. This must be matched by greater public awareness.

"No school or community is immune from this threat. The relentless depiction of online porn is placing ever greater pressure on pre and early teenagers.

"We must work together to protect our children from manipulative abusers of all ages and backgrounds, and fight back against accepting as 'normal' the depiction of aggressive and exploitative sexual relationships."

Warning signs can include having older friends, a child persistently going missing, secretive relationships with unknown adults, truancy, chronic fatigue, constant mobile phone calls, possession of money or new things.

The website is at www.seeme-hearme.org.uk and anyone concerned about the safety of a young person can call police on 101 or Barnardo's on 0121 3595333.

Quantum leap to a new factory for firm

A GROWING fibreglass manufacturing firm has moved out of Stourbridge and into one of the former Sealine boat factories in Kidderminster.

The 50,000 sq factory has been empty since Sealine collapsed last year but now Quantum Mouldings is set to move in and boss Peter Wooldrige says his firm will be looking to recruit some of Sealine's skilled workers.

Growing workloads spurred the move from Quantum's home of 30 years in Enville Street, Stourbridge, and the firm is adding another 10 workers to its 25-strong workforce. Mr Wooldridge is hoping to double the company's workforce if turnover continues to grow at its current rate.

The company makes car trailers and hard tops for pick-up trucks but is also moving into new markets such as housings for wind turbines and parts for the new Agility Global electric motorbike. The recession saw the company halve in size but has built back up and is busier than ever.

Families have fun on the bumper cars

One of the Virtue Dholies performing

Asian stars draw crowds

The crowds gather for the festivities on stage at Victoria Park, Smethwick

The Sandwell and Birmingham Mela, featuring the Virtue Dholies performing

Youngsters enjoy one of the fairground rides which proved to be very popular

THERE was dancing, music and colour in abundance as up to 100,000 people descended on Smethwick for this year's Sandwell & Birmingham Mela.

By Tim Spiers

A host of top Asian music stars including Punjabi pop favourite Gippy Grewal wowed the substantial crowd in glorious sunshine at the weekend.

The two-day festival – the biggest of its kind in the UK – was taking place for the fourth year in Victoria Park. The town was lit up with an abundance of bright colours as the performers and visitors turned up in splashes of orange, purple, green and gold.

Stalls, fairground rides and foodstands were dotted around the park as people celebrated the best of South Asian culture.

There were also performances from professional and community acts spread over three different stages – including the colourful Virtue Dholies, a dhol drumming troupe that formed a human pyramid as part of their act.

Other acts on the bill were bhangra singers Malkit Singh, Benny Dhaliwal and Lehmber, as well as rapper Nesdi Jones. Organiser Danny Singh said the festival had been a huge success. "It's been bigger and better than ever," he said. "We had up to 40,000 on Saturday and because of our international star Gippy Grewal around 60,000 today.

"There's a real community feel here and we entertain for everyone with different languages and different communities.

"It celebrates South Asian culture and really brings the community together, there's a great atmosphere in the park."

The park was open from midday to 7pm on both Saturday on Sunday, with families taking advantage of the good weather.

Manroop Kaur was among those enjoying the day with her family. The Smethwick resident said: "There's something for everyone here and we've really enjoyed the day."

Paramjit Seehmar, from Dunstall in Wolverhampton, added: "We came last year too and it somewhere where you bump into friends. Most people come for the music and there's a really big crowd this year."

Award-winning actor Grewal has appeared in several big-money film and had record-breaking Punjab singles.

After the event he praised the crowds and his loyal fans that were at the event from his Twitter account, @igippygrewal. He wrote: "Bye bye UK and once again thank you so much for your love and support."

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Bostin' time ahead as region prepares

Black Country flag flies across world

The flag flying in Afghanistan

FROM Bilston to Bermuda and Tipton to Tipperary – bostin' is being uttered the world over ay it, as news of Black Country Day sweeps the globe.

Proud Black Country folk have been spreading the word as preparations gather pace for the ground-breaking event celebrating all that is great in the Black Country.

More than 5,000 Black Country flags have been manufactured and sold to people keen to show off their passion for where they were born and raised. And they have been proudly waved in all corners of the world –ranging from huge sporting events, music festivals and even by soldiers in Afghanistan.

It seems the world is finally sitting up and taking notice ahead of the extravaganza on Monday (July 14). From the swaying masses gathered in front at the Pyramid stage at Glastonbury the flag was hoisted high on a pole joining the throngs of music fans enjoying the acts. The flag was spotted by fans in the crowds and was clearly seen on television pictures beamed across the country to families in their armchairs.

Soldiers have been keen to remember a slice of life in the Black Country even while in the hot deserts of Afghanistan by flying the Black Country Flag over Camp Bastion.

Package

And the Black Country even got a slice of the action at the World Cup in Brazil and another was spotted during the first day of the Tour de France. One of the main organisers, 'Black Country' Gaz Sawers, has been feverishly working around the clock to post and package as many of the Black County Flags as he can.

The flag was designed by schoolgirl Gracie Sheppard, 14, who attends Redhill Secondary School in Stourbridge.The Black Country Festival has been devised to bring together a host of arts and cultural events under one banner as excitement builds.

A special citizenship ceremony is also planned on Black Country Day.

Seventy adults from across Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley will become British nationals and Black Country citizens.

The event will take place at Dudley Town Hall, the first place in the region to fly the Black Country Flag.

Garry Sawers, also known as Black Country Gaz, promotes Black Country Day along with Councillor Pete Lowe in The Town Hall, Dudley

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When all the gifts have been bought it might be time to consider an optional excursion, with a helicopter ride over the city an exhilarating idea.
Historic Boston then beckons, with accommodation reserved in the Victoria 'Back Bay' area, close to the glittering walls of the Prudential Center and ultra-modern Copley Plaza.
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for celebration with pride and passion

Comedian Lenny Henry proudly holds up high the flag

Fizzog are perform at the Red House Glass Cone, in Wordsley

Grand idea – Entertainer 'Duchess of Dudley' Lizzie Wiggins

Famous add their backing

DUDLEY-BORN comic Lenny Henry, Wolves star Danny Bath and even the Prime Minister, David Cameron – the celebration of all things Black Country is receiving approval from well-known famous faces.

Mr Cameron praised the plan to look at the culture, history and identity of the Black Country while on a recent visit to the region, promoting a multi-million pound investment plan by the Government.

Black Country Day will take place on Monday (14) but events are being held from Friday onwards.

Dudley-born funny man Lenny Henry has also given his personal backing to this weekend's events.

Visits

The 55-year-old has made several public visits to Dudley since he was made Freeman of the Borough last year. Sports stars from the area have also been getting in the spirit. Wolves star and Brierley Hill-born footballer Danny Batth also gave his support.

Black Country Day has already won praise from some of the area's best loved figures for putting the pride back into the area.

Entertainer 'Duchess of Dudley' Lizzie Wiggins says Black Country Day is a 'grand idea'and Jacky Fellows – one third of the popular Black Country comic trio and theatre group Fizzog Productions – believes the event will prove a popular addition to the calendar.

Anthem in vow to head up the charts

IT'S a moving song which was re-worked by gigging musicians to stir the soul of thousands around the Black Country and the world.

And now this patriotic ode is soaring up the charts as people get behind a band to celebrate all that is bostin' about the Black Country. Folk band The Empty Can say they have been left stunned for the support for their single I Vow to Thee, Black Country.

It has been named the official song for Black Country Day on July 14 and bandmates hope the song has proved a popular anthem for the occasion. Thousands have already download the song which reached number 32 in the UK official independent singles chart recently.

Rachel Slater and James Stevens, of The Empty Can band, who released I Vow to Thee Black Country

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Walk-in centres move to tackle increase

BOSSES from Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group said they did as much as possible to help West Midlands Ambulance Service during one of its busiest weekends by extending the hours of its walk-in centres.

The weekend of June 20 to 22 was the emergency service's third busiest in its history. Over the three days, West Midlands Ambulance Service responded to 8,432 incidents, a 14.6 per cent increase compared to the corresponding period last year when there were 7,358.

At a subsequent meeting of the governing body of the CCG, accountable officer Andy Williams said: "We responded by increasing the opening hours of our walk-in centres to try and take some of the pressure off. We did react to that. It's not immediately obvious why it was so busy."

The walk-in centres are in Parsonage Street, West Bromwich, and Summerfield GP and Urgent Care Centre, in Birmingham.

Figures have not yet been released on how busy the walk-in centres were over the three days.

Third of workers in the region say they pull a sickie

ONE in three workers in the West Midlands admits to having pulled a 'sickie' – according to the latest research.

The study found that sick days are costing organisations in the UK more than £23 billion a year, but a large proportion of the sick bill could be preventable. People lying or exaggerating to take time off work accounts for around £9bn of the total bill.

In its survey of over 2,000 UK adults, accountants PwC found that in the West Midlands the most popular reasons for why people pulled a 'sickie' were hangovers (38 per cent), family responsibilities (36 per cent), job interviews (28 per cent), being bored with their job (20 per cent), and special events such as weddings or christenings (15 per cent).

More than one in 10 (13 per cent) people said they have lied to take time off work to watch a sporting event. Illness is by far the most common excuse but the research reveals that some workers go to highly creative lengths to cover up why they are taking illicit time off work.

Some of the more unusual excuses from West Midlanders included going to hospital to get treatment for a sleep disorder, the exhaust fell off their car and the boiler blew up so they couldn't have a shower. The UK's overall sickness bill – both genuine and made-up – has fallen to £23bn from £29bn a year ago.

But despite the positive trend, UK workers still take seven sick days a year, nearly three times the amount of sick days as their counterparts in Asia Pacific (2.2 days) and nearly double the US (3.8 days).

Central and Eastern Europe has the highest level of sick days at an average of 8.3 a year. PwC partner David Wignall, leader of the firm's human resource services team in the West Midlands, said: "Despite overall levels of absence falling in the UK, this could be even lower if employers crack down on unwarranted absence. Sickies are costing organisations £9bn a year – much of which is avoidable.

"Our research shows that when it comes to reducing absence levels, carrot rather than stick is the best approach. Having a flexible working culture can go a long way to breaking the cycle of people feeling that they are entitled to days off outside of their holiday allowance and encouraging better engagement."

Lucky escape for couple

The car upside down in a field following the accident after it spun off the M42

A COUPLE walked away unhurt after their car left a motorway and landed upside down in a field near Birmingham.

The car spun off the carriageway between junctions three and two of the M42 in South Birmingham at about 5.10pm on Saturday, June 28, as rain lashed down in the afternoon. An ambulance crew and a senior paramedic officer attended the scene.

The couple were helped from their car and taken to Hopwood Services where they were checked over and said they did not need to go to hospital. Ambulance spokesman Murray Macgregor said: "There is absolutely no doubt that they were very lucky indeed."

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Aussies fresh from Monkeys business

AUSTRALIAN psychedelic rock band Tame Impala, whose second album Lonerism has become a cult classic, follow their Arctic Monkeys Finsbury Park support slot with a show in their own right at Birmingham's Institute venue, in Digbeth, on Monday.

The week's other plum gigs are at Bilston's Robin 2 with soulful singer/songwriter Jo Harman in concert tonight and acclaimed young guitarist Laurence Jones on Wednesday, July 16, with support from American retro jazzer Davina and her Vagabonds. Meanwhile, the soul sounds of Detroit's Tamla Motown label will be celebrated in The Magic of Motown on Sunday at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Black Country fun at the cone

AN all day music festival is being staged in Stourbridge this Sunday for the Black Country Day Weekend.

The Redhouse Cone, Wordsley, has lined up a bill of local musicians including John Langford and Mark Busby Burrows. The event on Sunday will be outside and runs from 11am to 5pm, the same day as a poetry festival at the venue. But fun starts tomorrow night with comedy from New Black Country Night Out featuring Aynuk and The Fizzogs and there will be a celebration of cultural diversity on Saturday. See kmsevents.co.uk

Vinyl chance for Lenny to make his acting debut at The Rep

Uplifting holiday romance

THE stage adaptation of 1987 film Dirty Dancing arrives at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this September, offering audiences the opportunity to revel in dance and romance in an upstate New York holiday resort circa 1963.

The roles of Baby and Johnny were immortalised on the big screen by Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze, whose chemistry made such an impact as the Romeo and Juliet of Kellerman's holiday resort. So much so that each generation, Dirty Dancing becomes part of the VHS/DVD/Blu-Ray collection.

The stunning salsa and mesmerising merengue and, of course, that climatic lift when Baby jumps into Johnny's arms, will be performed again at the Grand from September 23 to October 11 with Gareth Bailey and Roseanna Frascona in the lead roles.

Having the time of their life — Gareth Bailey and Roseanna Frascona as Johnny and Baby

DUDLEY-BORN comedian and actor Lenny Henry will headline Birmingham Repertory Theatre's autumn and winter 2014 season.

The comic turned acclaimed dramatic actor will star in the stage premiere of Rudy's Rare Records from September 4 to 20, his first role at the theatre.

Based on his successful BBC Radio 4 series, written by Danny Robins and Henry, Rudy's Rare Records is a poignant comedy set in an old reggae record shop at risk of re-development in Birmingham.

Home

Henry plays Adam, son of shop owner Rudy, who reluctantly moves home to look after his dad and help run the shop.

Adapted for the stage by the writers, Rudy's Rare Records is directed by Paulette Randall and produced by Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Hackney Empire, where it will run after the premiere in Birmingham. The production will feature a live band onstage playing music made famous by Jimmy Cliff, Desmond Dekker and Bob Marley.

Henry said: "I've performed comedy gigs many times in Birmingham over the years, but this is my first straight acting role in the city and the first time I've been on stage at The Rep, which is something I'm really looking forward to.

Lenny Henry and his co-stars

"Growing up in Dudley I would come into Birmingham every Saturday to hang-out in a record shop not too dissimilar to Rudy's, so it's a play that's very close to my heart."

Roxana Silbert, artistic director at Birmingham Rep said: "We're delighted that Lenny will be bringing this brilliant show about three generations of a Birmingham family back home."

Tickets cost from £12.50 to £35. Call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Funk and folk at niche festivals

FESTIVAL season is in full swing and music fans can fill the gap between Glastonbury and V with a boutique festival in Birmingham.

This weekend, from Friday to Sunday, is the Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival in Moseley Park. New York's Fun Lovin' Criminals headline tomorrow, soul queen Mavis Staples tops the bill on Saturday and The Earth Wind And Fire Experience, featuring original member Al McKay, rounds things off on Sunday.

Sax

Other acts include Syrian star Omar Souleyman, Dutch dance trio Kraak & Smaak, Cody ChestnuTT, Lack of Afro, 1960s rock veteran Ginger Baker with his Jazz Confusion, and sax symbol Courtney Pine.

On Saturday BBC radio DJ, Coronation Street and Red Dwarf star Craig Charles will have a guest DJ slot.

Moseley Park will be a venue again on August 29 to 31 for the Moseley Folk Festival. This year it embraces rock acts too with a line up that ranges from Richard Thompson and The Waterboys, to ex-Smith Johnny Marr, rising star Jimi Goodwin, and Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore. Also featured are local acts Dan Whitehouse and The Old Dance School.

For more information see mostlyjazz.co.uk or for the folk fest moseleyfolk.co.uk website.

CHOICE

Amanda Mealing

Casualty (BBC1, 8.30pm)
The Beeb's flagship hospital drama is used to portraying people in desperate situations, but few go as far as one of tonight's patients. He's a drugs counsellor by trade who enlists the help of a former addict under his care to carry out a carjacking – all in a last-ditch attempt to get his hands on some cash. But why is he so willing to risk all in his bid for riches? The pieces start to fall together when he starts coughing up blood, and it seems that he's been keeping a dark secret from everyone, including his wife. Meanwhile, a leukaemia survivor seems to be struggling with motherhood. Could she be hurting her baby? Medical drama, starring George Rainsford, Richard Winsor, Chloe Howman and Amanda Mealing.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Live Athletics: Glasgow Grand Prix. Coverage of the Diamond League event. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. Olympic gold-medal-winning swimmer Rebecca Adlington, Strictly Come Dancing star Anton Du Beke, TV presenter Gethin Jones and BBC Breakfast's Louise Minchin take part.

7.40 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs of contestants – West Midlands sisters-in-law, sign-language interpreters from Yorkshire and a Luton father and daughter – compete for the chance to play for the money in the safe, with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds.

8.30 Casualty. A drugs counsellor enlists the help of a former addict to carry out a carjacking in his desperate bid for money – but when he ends up coughing up blood, it turns out there is something he has been keeping from his wife. Cal is negligent when dealing with the carjacking victim – something that doesn't go unnoticed by Connie – and a leukaemia survivor is suspected of hurting her baby, while Tess returns to the department with a new-found sense of direction in her life.

9.20 BBC News; Weather.

9.40 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) A buccaneer and a blacksmith commandeer a British ship and set sail in pursuit of a pirate captain who has kidnapped a colonial governor's daughter. However, their quarry and his crew are under a curse that turns them into living skeletons – and makes them impossible to kill. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Film: The Ruins. (2008) Horror, starring Jena Malone and Shawn Ashmore.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.35 Film:** Blood on the Moon. (1948) **8.00** MOTD Kickabout. (R) **8.30** World Cup Films. **9.45** Coast. **10.05** The Living Planet. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Spain. (R) **1.00** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. Coverage of the third day at Royal Birkdale Golf Club. **5.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets.

6.15 Film: Catch Me If You Can. (2002) The story of Frank Abagnale Jr, who found notoriety as a teenager conning and charming his way across America. Posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, Frank was able to fund an extravagant lifestyle while outwitting the FBI at every turn. Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks, Martin Sheen and James Brolin.

8.30 Dad's Army. The air-raid wardens have to share the church hall with the Home Guard after their HQ is bombed, but Hodge's men are terribly disruptive and soon cause mayhem. (R)

9.00 The Men Who Made Us Spend. New series. Jacques Peretti investigates the methods used to persuade people to buy consumer goods and confronts the men and women behind bestselling products and successful sales strategies. In the first edition, he examines how product lifespans hold the key to consumerism and explores the origins of planned obsolescence, revealing how a group of electrical manufacturers organised a light-bulb cartel in the 1920s. He asks a senior executive at a home furnishings store why his firm still encourages repeated discarding and purchasing, and talks to a former senior Apple employee about how the company's new focus on fashion keeps people buying even when technological innovation slows.

10.00 Film: The Shipping News. (2001) A small community helps a widower rebuild his family life when he and his daughter go to live with his estranged aunt. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore and Judi Dench.

11.45 Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine presents highlights from the third round at Royal Aberdeen, where America's Phil Mickelson entered as the defending champion.

12.45 Film: Black Sheep. (2006) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.30** Dinner Date. (R) **1.30** Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **2.30** The Nation's Favourite Motown Song. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00 Film:** Scooby-Doo. (2002) Comedy adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' home videos. Aled Jones auditions for Daybreak, while Chris Moyles and family have fun with a Taser. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Chat show host Jonathan Ross, champion boxer Carl Froch and Samantha Womack (EastEnders' Ronnie Mitchell) take turns on the token-pushing machine for charity. Ben Shephard presents.

8.30 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Coverage of the third-place play-off (Kick-off 9.00pm), which is staged at the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia, Brazil. The two losing semi-finalists face each other to determine who finishes third and fourth, in a contest that will no doubt be overshadowed by the final, despite historically being one of the higher-scoring matches of each tournament. The corresponding fixture in 2010 was an entertaining affair, with Germany beating Uruguay 3-2 in a seesaw encounter that initially saw them go 1-0 up before the South Americans fought back to take a 2-1 lead early in the second half. Presented by Matt Smith, with commentary by Sam Matterface and Clarke Carlisle. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.15 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Film: Balls of Fury. (2007) The FBI recruits a washed-up former ping-pong champion to infiltrate an underground tournament run by a criminal mastermind. Comedy, starring Dan Fogler and Christopher Walken.

1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** FIM World Superbike Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Tomorrow People. **1.20** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket, York and Ascot. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Jilly Pollock hosts the fifth and final party in Liverpool, and hopes her black-tie event featuring ballroom dancing will ease tensions after the previous night's arguments. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. George Clarke catches up with Simon Hooper and partner Victoria, who tried to convert a Grade I-listed medieval hall into a unique home in Cardiff. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets artists Indi and Rebecca, who are planning to construct a modern, larch-clad home on the Isle of Skye, with a second hand-crafted building alongside to use as their studio, all on a tight budget of £150,000. They have been saving for years, but making it happen will mean taking on the savage weather, not to mention the sceptical locals – and as if that weren't enough, most of the work is being done by one man, local builder Donald. (R)

9.00 Film: Knight and Day. (2010) A woman has a chance encounter with a rogue secret agent, who has been framed as a traitor and is on the run from his own superiors. Realising she is in danger for knowing too much, he kidnaps her and drags her along on his desperate mission to clear his name. Comedy adventure, with Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz.

11.15 The IT Crowd. Philip from the sixth floor asks Jen on a date – but Roy and Moss invite themselves along. Comedy, starring Katherine Parkinson, Chris O'Dowd and Richard Ayoade. (R)

11.50 The IT Crowd. Denholm's death spells trouble for Jen and Roy – until support appears in the form of a mysterious stranger. (R)

12.25 The IT Crowd. (R) **12.55 Film:** Rushmore. (1998) **2.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.40** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.40** The Hoobs. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **11.30** Big Brother: Eviction. (R) **12.55** NCIS. (R) **1.50** NCIS. (R) **2.45** NCIS. (R) **3.40 Film:** Pork Chop Hill. (1959) Korean War drama, starring Gregory Peck. **5.40 Film:** Fighter Attack. (1953) Second World War drama, starring Sterling Hayden.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights from the fourth day of the First Test of the five-match series from Trent Bridge in Nottingham. England were eventually bowled out for 544 in their second innings when the sides met here in 2011, leaving the tourists needing 478 runs to win. However, Tim Bresnan returned excellent figures of 5/48 as India were skittled out for just 158. Commentary and analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

7.55 5 News.

8.00 MH370: The Flight That Vanished. Documentary examining the theories and speculation surrounding the fate of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which was lost during its scheduled journey from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing Airport on March 8. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend – or enemy.

10.00 The Trial of Gillian Taylforth. Dramatic reconstruction based on transcripts and media coverage of the 1994 court case in which the former EastEnders star and her partner sued the Sun newspaper for libel.

11.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. The documentary examining the lives of unemployed people visits Hull, which has one of the highest unemployment rates and lowest average weekly wages in the UK. (R)

12.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Skyscraper: London's Cheesegrater. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** John Newman & Katy B @ T **9.00** Pharrell Williams & Rudimental @ T **10.00** Paolo Nutini @ T **11.30** Family Guy **1.45** American Dad! **2.30** Pramface **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Imagine – Jimi Hendrix: Hear My Train a Comin' **12.25** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **1.25** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.55** Lost Land of the Tiger **2.55** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **3.55** Close

ITV2
12.10 I Wanna Marry "Harry" **1.10** The Only Way Is Essex **2.40 Film:** Beethoven (1991) **4.25** 100% You've Been Framed! **5.25** You've Been Framed and Famous! **6.30 Film:** Pearl Harbor (2001) Romantic drama, starring Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale. **10.00 Film:** The Matrix Reloaded (2003) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne and Hugo Weaving. **12.40** The Magaluf Weekender **1.40** Crazy Beaches **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.45 Endeavour **1.00** Bomb Girls **1.50** Movies Now **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 The Cycle Show **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live. Stage eight from Tomblaine to Gerardmer La Mauselaine. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **5.25** Highway Patrol **6.00** Goodwood: Cars of the Future **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Hornblower **10.00 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **12.00** Alias Smith and Jones **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Gareth Bale: Welsh Galactico **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **12.00** The Big Bang Theory **1.30** New Girl **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The 100 **9.00 Film:** Coming to America (1988) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **12.50** 2 Broke Girls **1.20** How I Met Your Mother **2.15** Rude Tube **3.10** The Ricky Gervais Show **4.05** Glee **4.45** Desperate Housewives

Film4
11.00 The Overlanders (1946) **1.00** Rio (2011) **3.00** Zulu (1964) **5.50** Australia (2008) **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.20** The Others (2001) **1.25** Final Destination 3 (2006) **3.20** Close

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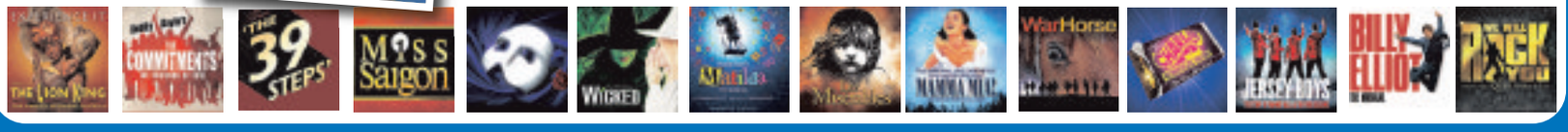

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CHOICE

Anna Maxwell Martin

The Night Watch (BBC2, 9pm)
Based on the acclaimed novel by Tipping the Velvet author Sarah Waters, this one-off drama opens in 1947, when the main characters, along with the rest of the country, are trying to rebuild their lives, and then works backwards through the 1940s to see just what happened to them during the war years. We are introduced to Kay (Anna Maxwell Martin), who ceaselessly roams the streets as if haunted by some tragic loss. Meanwhile, Helen (Claire Foy) and Viv (Jodie Whittaker) run a marriage bureau but their own personal lives are less than perfect – Viv seems unable to break free from her married lover, and Helen is pursuing a tumultuous relationship with a woman named Julia (Anna Wilson-Jones).

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Alan Hansen: Player and Pundit. (R) **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker explores Whiteford Burrows sand dunes in Gower, south Wales, Adam Henson reveals the wonders of wool and cameraman Richard Taylor-Jones is on the lookout for fox cubs.

7.00 Match of the Day Live. Coverage of the final at the Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro (Kick-off 8.00pm), where the successors to 2010 champions Spain are crowned. This 20th staging of the tournament has been largely lauded as a great success, with a glut of goals, attacking football and some of the leading players in the world bringing their club form to the international stage. While several of the leading European nations made early exits, including Italy, England and the defending champions, the South American and CONCACAF sides demonstrated their ability, leaving few clues as to which team could find the consistency required to lift the trophy. A number of shock results added to the excitement and unpredictability of the tournament, but there have been relatively few surprises in the showpiece match over the years, with the last one being France's victory over Brazil in 1998, and before that, arguably Italy's triumph against West Germany in 1982 following their slow start to that campaign. A European success remains unlikely, especially as all four stagings of the World Cup in South America have been won by sides from that continent, with the last one being Argentina on home soil in 1978. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News.

10.55 Live at the Apollo. Greg Davies hosts another session of stand-up at Hammersmith Apollo in west London. (R)

11.25 Film: Man of the Year. (2006) Comedy, with Robin Williams and Christopher Walken.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.20 Film:** Tender Comrade. (1943) **8.00** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. **12.00** Rick Stein's Spain. (R) **1.00** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. Coverage of the fourth day at Royal Birkdale Golf Club. **5.20** Natural World: The Bat Man of Mexico. (R)

6.20 Flog It! People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (R)

7.20 Film: Shall We Dance? (2004) A bored workaholic lawyer becomes fixated with a beautiful dance teacher and enrols in her class. When she flatly rejects his advances, he decides to concentrate on perfecting his footwork – but keeps the new hobby a secret, making his wife very suspicious about the amount of time he is spending away from home. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere.

9.00 The Night Watch. One-off drama adapted from the best-selling novel by Sarah Waters following the love affairs of four Londoners through three periods of the 1940s. Kay roams the streets, haunted by a traumatic personal loss, while Helen and Viv run a marriage bureau, helping people rebuild their shattered lives by finding love – but their own complicated relationships are less easy to solve. Meanwhile, Duncan's fragile existence is threatened when a face from his past reappears. Anna Maxwell Martin, Claire Foy, Jodie Whittaker and Harry Treadaway star. (R)

10.30 Mock the Week. Josh Widdicombe, Gary Delaney and Tiffany Stevenson are among the guests joining regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. (R)

11.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Victoria Coren Mitchell, Sue Perkins and the Rev Richard Coles join Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions about knights and knaves. (R)

11.45 Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine presents action from the fourth and final round at Royal Aberdeen, where Phil Mickelson entered as the defending champion.

12.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. **4.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Love Your Garden. **12.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.30 Film:** Columbo: Strange Bedfellows. (1995) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Rod Steiger. **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)

7.00 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Coverage of the final at the Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro (Kick-off 8.00pm), where the successors to 2010 champions Spain are crowned. The Spaniards needed extra time to overcome the Netherlands in a tempestuous affair four years ago in South Africa, with Andres Iniesta striking after John Heitinga had been sent off for the losing side. However, Spain were unable to successfully defend their title this time around, losing 5-1 to the Dutch in their opening contest, before a further defeat against Chile sealed their fate just two games into their tournament. Argentina and Brazil began their campaigns among the favourites and they will know history is on their side if either have qualified for this encounter, as a team from South America has prevailed every time the continent has hosted a World Cup. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 The Greatest Footie Ads Ever. Paddy McGuinness presents this one-off programme guiding viewers through 30 years of incredible, bizarre, spectacular and much-loved football commercials. (R)

11.45 The Cube. Phillip Schofield hosts. (R)

12.40 The Store. **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Ironman 2014. **6.30** Ironman 2014. **7.00** Cholmondeley Pageant of Power. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.50** The Simpsons. (R) **3.20** The Simpsons. (R) **3.45** Deal or No Deal. **4.50 Film:** St Trinian's. (2007) Comedy, starring Rupert Everett.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Film: Titanic. (1997) A party of explorers studying the sunken remains of the famous liner meets an elderly woman who was a passenger on the ill-fated maiden voyage. She recounts how she boarded the ship while on the brink of being forced into marriage by her family, and was stopped from killing herself by a penniless artist. She fell in love with her saviour, but the disaster on the horizon meant their time together was doomed to be short. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton. Edited for language and nudity.

10.45 Film: The Running Man. (1987) A convict takes part in a brutal TV game show in which he is hunted by a series of gadget-wielding killers. Sci-fi action adventure, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Richard Dawson.

12.40 The Million Pound Drop. Davina McCall returns with the 13th series of the quiz, featuring themed editions and celebrity contestants. Tonight, Stephen and Chris from Gogglebox play for charity. (R) **1.35 Film:** A Prophet. (2009) A crook is sent to a French prison dominated by rival Corsican and Muslim gangs, where he forms his own crime syndicate. Crime drama, starring Tahar Rahim and Niels Arestrup. **4.05** Home Road Movies. (R) **4.20** River Cottage Veg Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall cooks a stir fry at Bramble Farm in Bristol. He also prepares potato and carrot salad, as well as exotic tarts made using beetroot and samphire. (R) **4.50** Beat My Build. Two sets of property developers compete to make the most profit renovating flats. The first crew transforms a unit in London, while the second treats another on the south coast. (R) **5.45** Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes, and could double their winnings with box 23 – if they are brave enough to buy it with what they have won. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **10.00** Access. (R) **10.05** World's Scariest Near Misses. (R) **10.55** Big Brother. (R) **11.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55 Film:** See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) **2.45 Film:** Stand By Me. (1986) **4.20 Film:** Click. (2006)

6.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces around the nation to discover how CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fifth day of the First Test of the five-match series from Trent Bridge in Nottingham.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 The Boy They Call Fish. The story of a Vietnamese teenager who has a rare condition that gives him scaly, fish-like skin, and his unlikely friendship with the Essex grandmother devoted to helping him. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Webcam Girls: At Your Service. Women who work in the online adult entertainment industry. (R)

10.50 Film: Step Brothers. (2008) Two 40-year-old men who have never left the family home are forced to share a room when their single parents marry each other. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell.

12.45 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Bastille & Sam Smith @ T **9.00** Tinie Tempah & Jake Bugg @ T **10.00** Arctic Monkeys & Example @ T **11.30** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.00** Russell Howard's Good News **2.00** Stacey Dooley in the USA: Homeless in Detroit **3.00** Slum Survivors **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Natural World **8.00** Ford's Dagenham Dream **9.00** A Century in Film: From Scotland with Love **10.15** The Sky at Night **10.45 Film:** Everlasting Moments (2008) **12.30** Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned **1.30** More Dangerous Songs: And the Banned Played On **2.30** Ford's Dagenham Dream **3.30** Decisive Weapons **4.00** Close

ITV2
1.00 America's Got Talent **3.40** You've Been Framed! **4.10 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **6.00 Film:** Jurassic Park III (2001) **7.45 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50 Film:** The Matrix Revolutions (2003) **1.20** TV OD **1.45** You've Been Framed and Famous! **2.35** Life's Funniest Moments **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.25 A Touch of Frost **1.30** Wycliffe **2.45 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Endeavour **1.00** Wycliffe **1.55** William and Mary **2.45** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.00 Duck Dynasty **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Tour de France Live. Stage nine from Gerardmer to Mulhouse. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Doom (2005) **11.05 Film:** The Wicker Man (1973) **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **2.30** Police, Camera, Action! **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The 100 **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Hairspray (2007) **10.15** The Big Bang Theory **11.20** Rude Tube **12.25** The Mindy Project **12.50** How I Met Your Mother **1.25** Rules of Engagement **2.15** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Admirable Crichton (1957) **1.00** Planet of the Apes (1968) **3.15** Avatar (2009) **6.35** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** X-Men: The Last Stand (2006) **11.05** The Final Destination (2009) **12.40** Vanilla Sky (2001) **3.25** Close

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Film Choices

Monday
Assumed Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A news reporter trying to prove a a series of recent murders were the work of a serial killer is involved in a car crash and loses her memory. She begins to suspect that her own husband may be the murderer, and tries to piece together the events of the crash that she has forgotten. Thriller, starring Barbie Castro. (2013)

Tuesday
Escape from Polygamy, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A widowed mother joins a religious cult and goes to live in their remote compound, where her teenage daughter falls in love with the son of the group's leader. When the preacher demands that the girl marry him, the two youngsters plan to escape together. Drama, starring Haley Lu Richardson, Jack Falahee and Mary McCormack. (2013)

Wednesday
North West Frontier, BBC2, 1.10pm
A British officer saves an Indian prince from an uprising and tries to escort him and the boy's nanny to safety on board a dilapidated train. However, his mission is jeopardised when it becomes clear there is a traitor on board, leading to a deadly game of cat and mouse. Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacall, Kenneth More, Herbert Lom and Wilfrid Hyde White. (1959)

American Pie, Wednesday, ITV, 10.40pm

American Pie, ITV, 10.40pm
Four teenage boys make a solemn pact to lose their virginity before the high-school prom, and though their antics cause them huge embarrassment and public humiliation, the friends also learn about love and affection in their relations with the opposite sex. Coming-of-age comedy, starring Jason Biggs, Shannon Elizabeth, Chris Klein, Alyson Hannigan, Mena Suvari, Seann William Scott and Eugene Levy. (1999)

Thursday
The Nightmare Nanny, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman reluctantly hires a live-in nanny to look after her three-year-old daughter so she can return to work, but fears the child is growing closer to her minder than her mother. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott and Mekenna Melvin. (2013)

Friday
What Happens in Vegas, Channel 4, 12.05am
Two strangers accidentally booked into the same hotel room in Las Vegas spend a night on the town together. After a wild and drunken time in the casinos, they wake up to find they are now a married couple, and later win $3million which they both have a claim to – leading to a battle of wits over who keeps the money. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher. (2008)

Pick of the Week

The new champions are finally crowned

Who's it between? Well, not the teams featuring in the World Cup final, but rather BBC v ITV. Both channels will be broadcasting the showpiece match, which takes place at the famous Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro and kicks off at 8pm, but which company will come out on top in the ratings?

The smart money is on the Beeb. After all, they have silver fox Gary Lineker at the helm, whose still boyish good looks, despite the fact he's in his fifties, will appeal to the non-football-loving ladies in the audience, while fans will simply enjoy his knowledge of the game.

The BBC also have some excellent pundits alongside him, and we're hoping that Danny Murphy rather than Mark Lawrenson gets the co-commentator's spot.

The former Liverpool and Fulham star has been a revelation in this position – he's as interesting as poor old Phil Neville was dull during his first go at it during England's opening tie against Italy.

Not that ITV are the poor relations. Adrian Chiles does a decent job as their anchorman, while the likes of Gordon Strachan, Patrick Viera and Lee Dixon have plenty to say for themselves.

Sadly, Fabio Cannavaro often looks like a rabbit caught in the headlights – he's charming, but perhaps needs a few more English lessons.

Also, it would be nice if his co-stars allowed him to get a word in edgeways every now and then.

The World Cup itself has been one of the best in recent memory. From the start, teams generally threw caution to the wind, opting to attack rather than sit back and defend, which led to some thrillingly open games.

Teams such as Chile, Costa Rica and Algeria surprised many by getting further than anyone (including probably themselves) thought possible, while the likes of Italy, holders Spain and, yes, England, fell by the wayside early.

Even the USA, a nation that for so long didn't seem to be able to get its head around the game they call soccer, finally appeared to embrace it, and the team only bowed out during the round of 16 after one of the most enthralling matches so far, which saw goalkeeper Tim Howard make a record-breaking 15 saves before Belgium beat them 2-1.

After watching so many great matches, we have high hopes for this year's final.

It surely can't be dirtier and more disappointing than the 2010 one anyway, when Spain scored in extra time to win 1-0 against a Netherlands team that was uncharacteristically dirty throughout the game.

Referee Howard Webb sent off one player and handed out 14 bookings that afternoon in Johannesburg.

Who will actually lift the famous trophy is a mystery – there have been too many upsets and surprises so far to tempt us into guessing. What we do know is that it won't be anybody from the British Isles. Maybe our time will come in Russia in 2018, eh?

Gary Lineker, Match of the Day Live, Sunday, BBC1, 7pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell are back with a new run of a series which has proved amazingly popular. Although each episode features different people, their stories are often similar and the outcome – a tearful reunion – is the upshot of the research team's hard work. So, make sure you have plenty of tissues handy as we meet 63-year-old Ann Munro from Hampshire, who desperately wants a chance to tell her son why she gave him away when she was 21, and to ask for his forgiveness. There's also a chance to find out how Louise Kendall, a 28-year-old nurse from Bradford, gets on when she tracks down the French father she's never met.

Utopia
Channel 4, 10pm
The first series, broadcast in 2012, was a massive success, so we're expecting big things from this follow-up. It takes us back to 1979 and introduces us to Philip Carvel, a scientific genius who meets Milner, boss of powerful shadowy organisation The Network, at a secret forum involving boffins from various walks of life. They get on like a house on fire, and she encourages him to create Janus, a way of sterilising 95 per cent of the world's people which, she claims, will solve the world's overpopulation problem. But as time goes by, Carvel questions the project, particularly how it will affect his own children, in particular his beloved daughter Jessica. Tom Burke, Rose Leslie, Ed Birch, Anca Androne and Kevin Trainor star.

Tuesday
Hive Alive
BBC2, 8pm
Part one of two. Naturalist and Springwatch presenter Chris Packham and journalist and beekeeping enthusiast Martha Kearney are joined by expert Professor Adam Hart to explore the remarkable secrets of the lives and habits of bees. Midsummer is a critical time for the insects as they must gather enough food for the winter, so a specially designed hive equipped with an array of cutting-edge technology is used in order to monitor them and find out how they do it.

Coast
BBC2, 9pm
Following their recent Australian version, now the Coast team are back for a fresh run. They will be exploring more dramatic areas, telling stories, investigating notable landmarks and exploring mysteries that have played an important role in the coastal regions' development. In this first episode, the Coast crew explores the English Channel. Nick Crane experiences the secret life of Mont St Michel, a rocky outcrop which attracts over a million tourists a year. Mark Horton reveals how French mapmakers accidentally gave birth to Britain's Ordnance Survey some two centuries ago. And a few weeks after the world remembered the fallen, the team discover a poignant memorial to those who lost their lives during the D-Day campaign.

Wednesday
The Hotel Inspector Returns
Channel 5, 9pm
Alex Polizzi returns to the White Hart in St Albans, Hertfordshire, a reputedly haunted 15th-century hotel run by husband-and-wife Ross and Jayne McBeath, who had taken the ghoulish inspiration to extremes with novelty plastic skeletons and a horror-themed menu. Alex suggested that the proprietors drop the ghost tours and concentrate on the rich history of the building and surrounding area. Two years on, will she find a successful business – or will it be dead and buried?

The Hotel Inspector Returns, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

The Mimic
Channel 4, 10pm
Return of the comedy about a talented impressionist who's stuck in a rut. Since leaving his maintenance job for a big break on TV, things haven't quite gone to plan for Martin and he's having trouble finding work. As his son Steven decides to go travelling – unable to cope after the death of his mother – Martin hires Neil as his new agent. However, his first gig is not exactly what he had been hoping for – busking at a shopping centre. Terry Mynott stars.

Thursday
Talk to the Animals
BBC1, 8pm
Lucy Cooke concludes her global exploration into the world of animal 'speak', focusing on how they talk to friends and enemies and even what they say to their neighbours. The zoologist discovers the many uses of the spotted hyena's call, tricks some vervet monkeys into warning each other of danger and finds out that dolphins not only greet one another, they also have unique signatures.

Friday
The Village That's Falling Into the Sea
BBC1, 7.30pm
On December 5th last year, the Norfolk seaside resort of Hemsby was devastated by the worst storm surge the east coast had seen in 60 years. It resulted in three homes being swept into the sea and another four getting unthinkably damaged. However, this wasn't the first time the village had experienced such loss – their coastline is slowly being eroded at a cost of almost 70 properties over the past few decades. In this one-off programme, presenter David Whiteley meets the residents.

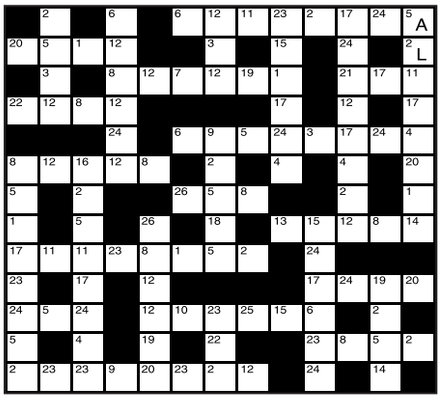
BBC Proms 2014
BBC2, 8pm
The 120th season of the classical music festival gets under way at London's Royal Albert Hall as Katie Derham introduces a performance of Elgar's biblical oratorio The Kingdom, a portrayal of the acts of the disciples after the ascension of Jesus. Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the BBC National Chorus of Wales.

Brain Gym

No.281

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



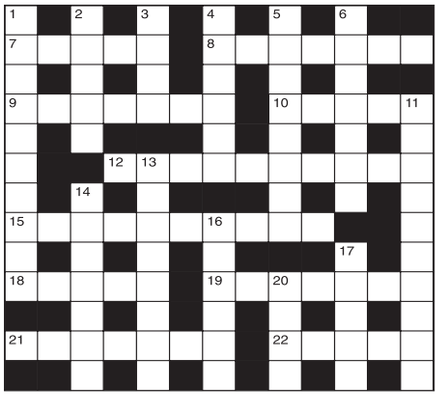
1	14
2 L	15
3	16
4	17
5 A	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
C	E	I	T	V	G	D	W	P	M	K	R	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	Z	H	L	J	A	N	B	U	Q	F	Y	S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Sailor not quite finished on top (5)
8. She's not herself when working (7)
9. It's lace made for use in many under-garments (7)
10. Audibly permitted (5)
12. It may be a tiny girl's reason for not singing (10)
15. Toast? Well, we enjoy it! (4,6)
18. Part of Munich expressly designed for a statue (5)
19. A topic that's new about a pudding (7)
21. We prefer to be so (7)
22. Ocean-designed craft? Hardly (5)

Down

1. One keeps dry on it (5-5)
2. Not qualified to sum up (5)
3. A number set about a religious group (4)
4. Is such a tune easily picked up? (6)
5. Yet a crooked dealer may deal himself one! (8)
6. Answers which may be dispensed with (7)
11. Specified an inten-tion on the wrong date (10)
13. Fit as a lithe cat might be (8)
14. Firm interest (7)
16. He savagely attacked Roman civilisation (6)
17. Bandaged an injury? (5)
20. Quietly act on an agreement (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Illustrious (5)
8. Raging (7)
9. Compel (7)
10. Remove faults (5)
12. Communicable (10)
15. Unlikely (10)
18. Decree (5)
19. Limit (7)
21. Quake (7)
22. Suffering (5)

Down

1. Not precise (10)
2. Astern (5)
3. Prophet (4)
4. Feeble (6)
5. Eastern (8)
6. Ennui (7)
11. Confused (10)
13. Mid-day (8)
14. Best (7)
16. Harmony (6)
17. Inflexible (5)
20. Remark (4)

Sudoku

		3	6			8		
				3			6	9
6		8	1		9			
	5	9			4			1
	2	4		1		6	9	
1						7	4	
		1	3		6	4		2
5	6			7				
					8	1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	1	3	2	7	4	9	6	5
9	5	2	3	6	8	7	1	4
7	6	4	1	9	5	8	2	3
1	4	9	8	5	6	3	7	2
6	7	8	9	3	2	5	4	1
3	2	5	4	1	7	6	8	9
2	9	1	7	8	3	4	5	6
5	3	7	6	4	1	2	9	8
4	8	6	5	2	9	1	3	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Escalator; 8 Ian; 9 Till the soil; 11 Crushed; 12 Icing; 13 Endear; 15 Agenda; 17 Rhyme; 18 Ascribe; 20 Ice-breakers; 22 Sol; 23 Suspected. Down: 2 Ski; 3 Latch; 4 Treads; 5 Roofing; 6 Pillion ride; 7 Integrate; 10 Laundry bill; 11 Cheerless; 14 Ageless; 16 Padres; 19 Chase; 21 Rye. QUICK - Across: 1 Practical; 8 Own; 9 Depredation; 11 Breathe; 12 Upper; 13 Animal; 15 Rescue; 17 Idiot; 18 Affront; 20 Assiduously; 22 Dot; 23 Stratagem. Down: 2 Roe; 3 Treat; 4 Craven; 5 Leisure; 6 Conspicuous; 7 Interment; 10 Precipitate; 11 Be-atitude; 14 Attests; 16 Wander; 19 Float; 21 Lie.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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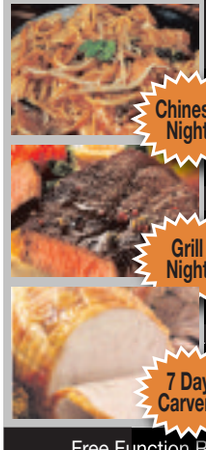

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A beautifully maintained interior at semi-detached

A SUBSTANTIAL six-bedroomed semi-detached property with splendid, beautifully maintained accommodation in Barnsley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £450,000.

Situated in a conservation area and the house has a plethora of period features including sash windows, coving, picture rails and fireplaces.

It has an entrance hallway, ground floor WC, two reception rooms, a breakfast kitchen, a utility room, six bedrooms, two bathrooms, WC, kitchenette, workshop, detached garage, carport, ample parking and front and rear gardens, with the rear having a patio, vegetable patch, garden pond and bespoke workshop. For details contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit the website at www.oulsnam.net

Viewing is advised to fully appreciate

A SPACIOUS, well-presented and thoughtfully improved four bedroomed semi-detached property – 30 Harborne Road, Warley Woods area, Oldbury needs to be seen to be truly appreciated.

It is for sale through Taylors estate agent at £279,950.

Set back behind a driveway providing off road parking it has a porch, entrance hall with staircase off, there is a delightful lounge with a bay window and feature fireplace, a sitting room with sliding patio doors into the attractive garden room, a kitchen and a narrow garage/store off.

For further information contact Taylors estate agent on (0121) 4344345 or visit the website at www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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£1.4m house in six acres of plush grounds

A COMPLETELY refurbished 1920s five bedroomed detached country residence in a prestigious address in Patsull Road, Albrighton, comes with six acres of stunning grounds with a pool and paddocks.

It is for sale through Peter James Property at £1,400,000.

It has an entrance hall, a reception hall, cloakroom, three splendid reception rooms, a master suite with dressing room and en suite, four further bedrooms, three further bathrooms (two en suite), a fabulous kitchen/breakfast room, a utility, rear lobby, office annexe, garaging for three cars, a stable block, a huge second floor attic room and oil central heating.

This home of distinction presents a dramatic first impression with its particularly wide horseshoe shaped front façade, its numerous sash windows, substantial front door in commanding entrance porch and garaging for several cars. For further information contact Peter James Property on 01902 754777 or visit the webiste at www.peterjamesproperty.com

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11-7 Photos show interiors from another development, artists impression shows a typical Bluebell housetype. *Help to Buy is available on selected plots only, using our nominated independent financial advisors. Up to 20% funded as an equity loan, interest free for the first five years. From year six, interest will be charged at a rate of 1.75% rising annually by the increase (if any) in the Retail Price Index (RPI) plus 1%. Terms and conditions apply, available on request. † Legal fees paid excluding disbursements to the value of £1000 (subject to the lenders criteria) for reservations during July 2014. All offers not in conjunction with any other offer. YOUR HOME MAY BE AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT. Prices correct at time of going to print.

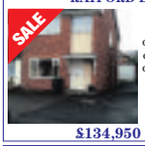
APEX ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Let Through One Of Sandwell's Oldest Letting Agent!

WEST BROMWICH
CAMBRIDGE STREET

FOR SALE 3 bedroom property, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, bathroom with overhead shower, enclosed rear garden.
£109,500 Offers pcm

WEST BROMWICH
RAYFORD DRIVE



Spacious 3 bedroom semi-detached property, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom. Off road parking, garage. Must be viewed
£134,950 pcm

TIVIDALE
MCDONALD CLOSE

4 bedroom semi-detached modern property, central heated and double glazed, spacious lounge, dining area, downstairs w.c and first floor bathroom. Off road parking and garage.
£699 pcm

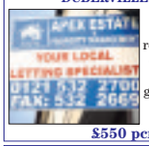
TIPTON
ST.MARTINS DRIVE

3 bedroom semi-detached modern property, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom. central heated and dg. private drive and garage. Available unfurnished.
£595 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
BEACONSVIEW RD

Ground floor one bedroom flat, newly refurbished, spacious lounge. ch and double glazed. communial carpark.
£399 pcm

WOLVERHAMPTON
DUBERVILLE ROAD



3 bedroom property, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, off road parking.
£550 pcm

DUDLEY
QUEEN CROSS

Good investment 2 commercial units, freehold for sale, Fish and chip shop, grocery store with a 5 bed flat above, currently all let out with good revenue stream.
offers £220,000 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
KINITHS CRESCENT

3 bedroom semi-detached property in a prime location, spacious through lounge, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking. High spec finished. must be viewed.
£600 pcm

TIPTON
POTTERS BROOK

2 bed ground floor modern apartment, spacious lounge, separate kitchen, ch & dg communal carpark
£475 pcm

OLDBURY
PEEL STREET

Ground floor 2 bedroom Maisonnette, lounge, Kitchen with cooker and fridge. Central heating and double glazed. off road parking. Available unfurnished.
£450 pcm

WOLVERHAMPTON
D'URBERVILLE ROAD

Newly refurbished 2 bed ground floor flat, central heated and double glazed, off road parking and rear garden. Must be viewed to be appreciated.
£525 pcm

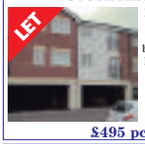
OLDBURY
KNOTTSALL LANE

Beautiful 1 bedroom first floor flat, central heated and double glazed, spacious lounge and bedroom, communal car park.
£495 pcm

WEST BROWICH
EUROPA AVENUE

Spacious 4 bedroom property in the sandwell valley area, Reception room, dining area, spacious kitchen, first floor bathroom. Off road parking. Unfurnished
£750 pcm

DUDLEY
SOUTHGATE WAY



Modern 2 bedroom aprtment, open plan kitchen. fitted bathroom. economy heating and double glazed through out. designated parking. Available unfurnished. Must be viewed
£495 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
JEFFERSON PLACE

Modern ground floor apartment situated near sandwell hospital off Grafton road, spacious open plan kitchen and lounge, 1 bedroom, fitted bathroom. secure allocated parking.
£430 pcm

WEDNESBURY
ELWELL STREET

First floor one bedroom flat, spacious lounge, ch and Dg, Must be viewed. Modernised.
£400 pcm

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EDWARD ROAD, OLDBURY

●MUST BE VIEWED● - EXTENDED 5 bed home with DRIVEWAY to front for several vehicles. EXTENDED & REFITTED 35ft breakfast kitchen with appliances and REFITTED utility & WC. EXTENDED 23ft lounge with separate dining room. 5 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & REFITTED family bathroom. UPVC DG & gas central heating. Rear garden with SOUTHERLY aspect. EPC rating: C Ref: D1480
£249,950 Ref: D1480

ELM CROFT, OLDBURY

EXTENDED semi-detached home in CUL-DE-SAC location and having 3 DOUBLE bedrooms. EXTENDED & REFITTED breakfast kitchen, EXTENDED 18ft lounge, dining room & study. REFITTED family bathroom with white suite. SOUTH facing rear garden. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1481
£199,950 Ref: D1481

CLYDESDALE ROAD, QUINTON

MODERNISED home in SOUGHT AFTER tree lined road with NO UPWARD CHAIN. REFITTED & EXTENDED 11ft kitchen, 27ft lounge diner & d/s WC. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. GARAGE & driveway to front. Lawn rear garden with WESTERLY aspect. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1478
£199,950 Ref: D1478

HAGLEY ROAD WEST, QUINTON

EXTENDED - WELL PROPORTIONED - semi detached family home. MASTER BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE - 3 further bedrooms, family bathroom. Lounge, Separate dining room, Kitchen. BLOCKPAVED driveway, rear garden with SUNNY ASPECT, UPVC DBG & gas central heating. EPC rating: E Ref: D1476
£199,950 Ref: D1476

MEADOW ROAD, QUINTON

SPACIOUS MODERN end terrace town house with PARKING. Kitchen with built in appliances, DWC, Lounge & conservatory/dining room with French doors to garden. MASTER BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE 3 further DOUBLE BEDROOMS, & family bathroom. Rear garden. GCH, UPVC DBG. EPC Rating: C Ref: D1453
£184,950 Ref: D1453

WILMINGTON ROAD, QUINTON

IDEAL FOR MODERNISATION AND EXTENSION. Traditional home in SOUGHT AFTER tree lined road. 26ft lounge diner, EXTENDED 13ft kitchen, d/s WC & lean to storage. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & family bathroom. GARAGE & driveway. Lawn gardens to rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas central heating & part double glazing. EPC rating: Ref: D1474
£179,950 Ref: D1474

MARION ROAD, SMETHWICK

MODERNISED semi-detached home on CORNER PLOT position close to LOCAL PARK. REFITTED 12ft kitchen & 26ft lounge diner. REFITTED family bathroom and 3 bedrooms on first floor. DRIVEWAY to front. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1477
£164,950 Ref: D1477

PINEWOOD DRIVE, BARTLEY GREEN

EXTENDED family home on CORNER PLOT position. GARAGE & driveway - potential to extend to side. 16ft lounge diner & 11ft breakfast kitchen. Benefits from d/s WC. 3 GOOD size bedrooms & family bathroom. Gas central heating & double glazing fitted. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: D Ref: D1449
£139,950 Ref: D1449

TEDSTONE ROAD, QUINTON

WELL PRESENTED end terraced home in CUL-DE-SAC location. Having LARGE rear garden with SOUTHERLY aspect. 17ft lounge, 11ft kitchen & REFITTED downstairs bathroom. 3 bedrooms & WC on first floor. DRIVEWAY to front giving off road parking for several vehicles. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1482
£124,950 Ref: D1482

BEAN CROFT, QUINTON

SPACIOUS mid terraced home in CUL-DE-SAC location. 15ft lounge & 16ft kitchen diner. Benefits from downstairs WC & CONSERVATORY with storage. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & family bathroom. Lawn garden to both front & rear. Warm air heating & majority UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1475
£89,950 Ref: D1475

RIDGMONT CROFT, QUINTON

SPACIOUS terraced home with NO UPWARD CHAIN. NON BRICK/NON STANDARD CONSTRUCTION. 23ft lounge diner & 9ft9 kitchen. 3 bedrooms & shower room on 1st floor. Gas central heating & UPVC glazing fitted. CUL-DE-SAC position. EPC rating: Ref: D1396
£75,000 Ref: D1396

NEW ENGLAND, HALESOWEN

Split level apartment in CUL-DE-SAC location with GARAGE. 154 years remaining on lease. REFITTED 13ft kitchen & 14ft lounge on 1st floor. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED shower room on 2nd floor. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gardens to rear. Majority UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: C Ref: D1479
£74,950 Ref: D1479

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Bearwood 122 Poplar Rd Bearwood B66 4AP

Milton Court, Sandon Road Smethwick £82,500

A very well presented flat, located within a popular and desirable retirement complex. With double-glazing where specified and comprising: hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room, communal grounds and resident's parking. EPC: C

Devonshire Road Smethwick £150,000

A traditional semi detached property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, open plan kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom and garage to rear. EPC: E

Castle Road West Oldbury £149,950

An impressive semi detached family home in a popular location that MUST BE VIEWED to appreciate accommodation on offer, comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, block paved front driveway, side garage, and garden. EPC: E

Elm Croft Oldbury £150,000

A semi detached property ideally situated in a convenient cul-de-sac location, having double glazing and gas central heating where specified and comprising: entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, parking, garage and garden to rear. EPC: D

Bristnall Hall Road Oldbury £125,000

A traditional end terraced property, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified, the accommodation comprises: lounge, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs bathroom and three bedrooms. EPC: D

Wheatley Road Oldbury £155,000

A semi-detached property with double-glazing and gas central heating where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, parking and garden. EPC: F

Gilbert Road Smethwick £133,000

A mid terraced property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: two reception rooms, kitchen, shower room, three bedrooms, all with en-suite toilet. Garden to rear. EPC: D

Rawlings Road Smethwick £142,000

A well maintained mid-terraced Victorian property, situated in the popular suburb with gas central heating and double-glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, gardens to front and rear. EPC: E

Icknield Port Road Birmingham £115,000

A RECENTLY REFURBISHED mid-terraced property with gas central heating and double glazing where specified, the accommodation comprising: entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen, first floor lounge, three bedrooms, family bathroom, garden to rear. EPC: C

Jacmar Crescent Smethwick £109,950

A semi-detached property in need of modernisation, has double glazing where specified and comprises of: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen area, utility passage, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom. separate toilet. EPC: E

Crocketts Lane Smethwick £85,000

A three storey mid townhouse with gas central heating and double glazing where specified, and comprising: kitchen, cloakroom, inner hallway, lounge and master bedroom, two bedrooms, bathroom and gardens. EPC: D

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Moat Road Oldbury £180,000

EPC Rating E - ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●● An EXTENSIVE semi detached family home in need of SOME MODERNISATION but having IMMENSE POTENTIAL and comprises of two reception rooms, kitchen, rear lean to, conservatory, ground floor w.c, storage room, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, garage.

Hadley Street Oldbury £127,750

EPC Rating Awaited - A very well presented semi detached family home comprising of lounge, kitchen / dining room, three first floor bedrooms and family bathroom, extensive rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Newbury Lane Oldbury £109,500

EPC Rating Awaited - A three bedroom semi detached property in need of SOME modernisation and comprises of lounge, kitchen / diner, bathroom, rear garden, garage to rear and shared driveway to front. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Anvil Drive Oldbury £118,500

EPC Rating D - Situated within a CUL-DE-SAC location is this well presented modern mid terraced property briefly comprising of lounge, kitchen / diner, conservatory, two first floor bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking to front with an additional allocated parking space, foregarden and mature garden to rear. Double glazing and central heating

Titford Road Oldbury £115,000

EPC Rating D - A semi detached family home comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, conservatory, three first floor bedrooms and family bathroom, rear garden, block paved frontage and the added advantage of NO UPWARD CHAIN. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Church Street Oldbury From £69,950

EPC Rating D - A recently CONVERTED traditional property developed into six apartments finished to a very high standard with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Viewing is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to appreciate the fine finish to these quality apartments. Close to Oldbury Town Centre and local transport links ideal for commuters.

OPEN VIEWING!!!

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Thursday 10th July @ 4.30pm-6.00pm

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Ashtree Road Tividale £149,995

EPC RATING D - A spacious CORNER PLOT detached bungalow situated in a SOUGHT AFTER area of Tividale and comprises of entrance porch, hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, side lean to, driveway, garage and gardens to front, side and rear aspects. Double glazing and central heating where specified. The property MUST

Brandhall Court Wolverhampton £84,995

EPC RATING E - A beautifully presented and IMPROVED two bedroom GROUND FLOOR flat having a security gated main entrance to the development, communal parking area and garden areas surrounding building. The property comprises of entrance hall, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, two very well presented bedrooms, modern

33 Pinkney Place, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 9PE

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £99,950 on the above property.
Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place.
The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is D

Connells

Are you thinking of moving?

this could be a sign of what's to come

Wednesbury 22 Springhead Wednesbury WS10 9AD

Hydes Road Wednesbury £185,000

EARLY INSPECTION ADVISED to appreciate this deceptively spacious traditional semi-detached property. Benefiting from uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified), the property features two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, four double bedrooms and landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating F.

Queen Street Moxley £140,000

A well presented three bedroom detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and garage. EPC Rating D.

Norfolk Drive Wednesbury £130,000

A beautifully presented three bedroom semi-detached property in a cul-de-sac location briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility area, first floor shower room, well maintained front and rear gardens, shared driveway for off road parking. EPC rating D.

Lime Road Wednesbury £130,000

A three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC Rating TBA.

Alexandra Grange Tipton £129,995

The Chilton NOW RELEASED ! A stunning two bedroom semi-detached home briefly comprising; entrance hall, spacious lounge diner, contemporary kitchen with integrated appliances (slimline dishwasher, fridge freezer, oven, hob and washing machine), guest cloakroom, en-suite shower-room and parking space. EPC rating TBA.

Lime Road Wednesbury £115,000

Benefiting from No Upward Chain, a three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified), lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC rating TBA.

John Fletcher Close Wednesbury £115,000

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN in a cul-de-sac location a modern style two bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC rating D.

Church Hill Wednesbury £110,000

Benefiting from no upward chain a traditional style three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) porch entrance, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking. EPC Rating E.

Wood Green Road Wednesbury £250,000

●COMING SOON● An exclusive development of two outstanding five bedroom detached houses. Please call the office on 0121 556 2338 for further details. EPC Rating TBA.

Hodgkiss Close Wednesbury £225,000

A modern style four bedroom detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, separate dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen, utility, master bedroom with en-suite, enclosed rear garden, block paved driveway. No upward chain. EPC Rating C

Powis Avenue Tipton £110,000

A well presented three bedroom mid-terrace property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. EPC Rating D.

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

123 Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 9AZ

NOTICE OF OFFER

We would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £72,000. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Connells - 0121 525 1177. EPC Rating C

Woodward Street West Bromwich £199,950

A beautifully presented 3 bedroom detached property located within the Sandwell Valley of West Bromwich,close to Sandwell Hospital and West Bromwich town centre,offering lounge with open plan to conservatory,fitted kitchen, garage, family bathroom double glazing, central heating (where specified), off road parking ●●●NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC Rating D

Heath Lane West Bromwich £195,000

A beautifully presented recently refurbished 5 bedroom semi detached property,offering 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom,double glazing, central heating (where specified), rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC Rating F

Margaret Street West Bromwich £99,950

A 2 bedroom end terrace property located close to West Bromwich town centre, local shops and public transport, offering lounge,kitchen/diner,laundry room,downstairs bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), front and rear garden. EPC Rating D

Rayford Drive West Bromwich £132,950

A 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of open plan kitchen/diner,reception room,conservatory,off road parking, double glazing, central heating and garage EPC RATING E

Durham Drive West Bromwich £120,000

A modern 2 bedroom mid terrace property located in a residential area, offering, double glazing, central heating (where specified),spacious lounge,fitted kitchen,guest WC, family bathroom,off road parking, front and rear gardens, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC

Springfield Crescent West Bromwich £145,000

A traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property located close to West Bromwich Town Centre, having good links to public transport and M5 motorway, offering 2 reception rooms, kitchen, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified),off road parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING TBC

Sydney Close West Bromwich £125,950

A beautifully presented extended 3 bedroom end terrace property,offering doubler glazing, central heating (where specified) 2 reception rooms,downstairs wet room, upstairs family bathroom, ,garage,front and rear gardens. EPC RATING B

Crocketts Lane Smethwick £105,000

A well presented 3 bedroom end terrace town house, offering double glazing,central heating (where specified), kitchen/diner, downstairs cloakroom, upstairs bathroom, off road parking EPC RATING TBC

Hollyhedge Road West Bromwich £254,950

A 4 bedroom detached period property,briefly comprising of part double glazing,central heating,two reception rooms, dining room,fitted kitchen,downstairs bathroom,1st floor bathroom,enclosed rear garden,driveway providing off road parking. EPC RATING E

0121 420 3611 bearwood@connells.co.uk | 0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
0121 556 2338 wednesbury@connells.co.uk | 0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk

The Property Ombudsman

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NEW

Dibble Road, Smethwick
Tastefully Modernised Spacious Traditional Style Terrace, Easy Access To Smethwick High Street, NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC - TBC
- Recently Re-Rooted
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Separate Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Excellent First Time Purchase

Offers In The Region Of £119,950

NEW

Ashwood Close, Oldbury
Impressive Refurbished Two Bedroomed Modern Style Ground Floor Flat, In Excellent Order Throughout, Easy Access To M5/M6 Motorway. EPC - C
- Most Impressive Refurbished Ground Floor Flat
- Excellent Order Throughout
- Electric Heating, Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

TO LET: £495 PCM

NEW

Lodge Street, Oldbury Town Centre
Well Presented Spacious Second Floor Flat, Walking Distance To Local Amenities In Oldbury Town Centre, EPC - E
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom With Shower
- Off Road Parking
- Realistically Priced For Early Let

TO LET: £400 PCM

Perry Hill Road, Oldbury
Superb Traditional Style Semi, Situated Within This Most Popular Residential Location, Easy Access To Local Schools. EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Separate Front Lounge
- Open Plan Dining Area With Open Plan Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Plus Useful Loft
- Rear Garden, Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £184,950

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- OLDBURY
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- SMETHWICK
- QUINTON
- HALESOWEN

NEW PRICE

Castle Road West, Oldbury
Well Presented Deceptively Spacious Modern Style Semi, Popular Residential Location, Easy Access To Good Local Schools. EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Separate Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility/Store Room
- Thee Good Sized Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Separate W/C
- Gardens & Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £155,000

Pound Road, Oldbury
Charming Two Bedroomed Semi Detached Bungalow, Situated Within This Popular Residential Development. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge
- New Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- New Fitted Bathroom
- Gardens
- Garage, Off Road Parking

Offers In The Region Of £139,950

Perry Hill Road, Oldbury
●●● Three Bedroom FLAT SHARE Above The Perry Hill Tavern ●●●
- First Floor Rooms to Share
- Gas/Electric/Water Bills All Included
- Shared Lounge
- Shared Kitchen
- Shared Bathroom
- Private Double Bedroom
- EPC - D

TO LET: £350 PCM

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Property

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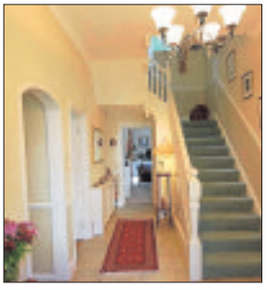
It is for sale through Thomas Harvey at £675,000.

Thoughtfully redesigned to retain the charm and appeal of a period property, the gas centrally heated and mainly double glazed accommodation includes a reception porch, hall, basement, sitting room, living room, dining room, cloakroom, study/lobby and utility. Contact 01902 758111.



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Severn Rise, Rowley Regis

- Detached Four Bedroom Home
- Boasts A Vast Living Space
- Open Plan Sleek Kitchen/Diner
- EPC Rating C

£249,950

Uncle Bens Close, Oldbury

- Detached Modern Four Bedroom Home
- Two Well Presented Reception Rooms
- Large Conservatory
- EPC Rating D

£197,950

Newcomen Drive, Tipton

- Detached Four Bedroom Family Home
- Extended To the Rear
- Garage & Large Driveway
- EPC Rating D

£194,950

Silvertrees Road, Tipton

- Four Bedroom Modern Detached
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Seperate Lounge & Dining Area
- EPC Rating D

£189,950

Edwin Phillips Dr, West Bromwich

- Three Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Peaceful Cul De Sac
- Convert Garage Into A Room
- EPC Rating D

£179,950

Bristnall Hall Road, Oldbury

- Unique Three Bed Semi Detached
- Large Ground Floor Extension
- Open Plan Kitchen/ Breakfast Area
- EPC Rating E

£170,000

All Saints Way, West Bromwich

- Modern Three Bedroom Detached
- Full Length Garage
- Newly Fitted A Rated Windows & Boiler
- EPC Rating E

£159,950

Causeway Green Road, Oldbury

- Semi Detached Extended Family Home
- Four Spacious Modern Bedrooms
- New Fitted Kichen and Diner
- EPC Rating D

£159,950

Stanley Avenue, Harborne

- Traditional Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Driveway To Fit Two Cars
- Large Utility Room
- EPC Rating D

£160,000

Ashtree Road, Tividale

- Modern Two Bed Bungalow
- Large Open Kitchen, Breakfast/Diner
- Refurbished Modern Family Bathroom
- EPC Rating E

£150,000

Callaghan Drive, Tividale

- Three Bedroom Mid Townhouse
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Modern Spacious Lounge
- EPC Rating tbc

£145,950

Summerton Road, Oldbury

- Modern Second Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge and Kitchen
- Large Loft Space For Storage
- EPC Rating B

£80,000

Sydney Close, West Bromwich

- Three Bedroom End Terrace Home
- Garage And Driveway To The Rear
- Downstairs Wet Room
- EPC Rating C

£125,950

Frodesley Road, Sheldon

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Excellent Location Of Sheldon
- Extended Kitchen and Lounge
- EPC Rating D

£124,950

Farm Road, Oldbury

- Traditional Three Bedroom Terrace Property
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Downstairs Bathroom
- EPC Rating D

£99,950

Cannock Road, Wolverhampton

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Residence
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazed Windows

£575 + Fees Apply●

Umberslade Road, Selly Oak

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Eat-In Kitchen With Integrated Appliances
- Two Double Bedrooms

£700 + Fees Apply●

Harrington Croft, West Bromwich

- Ground Floor Two Bedroom Apartment
- Allocated Parking Space
- Modern Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower

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NEW
Beakes Road, Bearwood
- A Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Superb Contemporary Styled Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal Purchase For 1st Time Buyers
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £129,950

Merrivale Road, Bearwood

NEW PRICE
- Charming Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Delightful Rear Garden
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,950

St Marys Road, Bearwood

NEW PRICE
- An Attractive End Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Room
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £149,950

NEW
Dale Street, Smethwick
- Traditional Terrace Property
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating G

Offers in the region of £89,950

NEW
Bishopton Road, Bearwood
- Well Presented Traditional Terrace
- Viewing is highly recommended
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Modern Bathroom & Stylish Wet Room
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £174,950

NEW
Drayton Road, Bearwood
- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Requiring Modernisation
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating G

Offers in the region of £100,000

NEW
Richmond Hill, Oldbury
- Traditional Double Fronted End Terrace
- No Upward Chain
- Three Bedrooms
- Repossession Property
- Three Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £139,950

NEW
Rawlings Road, Bearwood
- A Deceptively Spacious Terrace
- Upstairs Bathroom & GF Wet Room
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Modern Style Breakfast Kitchen
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £144,950

Clarendon Road, Smethwick

NEW PRICE
- Delightful Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £89,950

Pitcairn Road, Smethwick

NEW PRICE
- Delightful Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £199,950

NEW
Broadway, Oldbury
- Partly Refurbished, Extended Family Home
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £129,950

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EPC: C

Tipton
Harper Grove

- Four bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Lounge with juliet balcony
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage
- Rear garden

£675pcm

EPC: D

West Bromwich
Greets Green Road

- Two bed terraced house
- GCH
- Double glazing
- Modern kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Yard storage shed
- Rear garden

£475pcm

EPC: B

Tipton
Bean Drive

- Two bed second floor apartment
- Unfurnished
- Spacious lounge
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath and shower

£475pcm

EPC: TBC

Tipton
Scott Street

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Allocated parking
- Tipton office

£475pcm

EPC: D

Wednesbury
Blenheim Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Part furnished
- Double glazed
- Fully fitted open plan kitchen
- Communal gardens
- Tipton office

£450pcm

EPC: D

Tipton
Jonah Drive

- One bed ground floor flat
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Includes oven, hob, washer and dryer
- Bathroom with shower
- Allocaed parking

£425pcm

EPC: D

Tipton
Oak Close

- One bed ground floor flat
- Private residential area
- Hall & lounge
- Kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with shower
- Viewing recommended

£350pcm

EPC: E

Tipton
Warren Close

- Attractive one bed ground floor maisonette
- DG
- Electric storage and gas heating
- Breakfast kitchen with cooker

£350pcm

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Barclay Road, WARLEY WOODS,

● End Terrace Property ● Overlooking Warley Woods ● Two Reception Rooms ● Kitchen ● Shower Room ● Three Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom ● Driveway ● No Upward Chain ● Parking

Offers Around £219,950

Devon Road, WARLEY WOODS,

● Well Maintained Family Home ● Through Lounge ● Extended Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-fitted Bathroom ● Block Paved Driveway

Offers Around £195,000

Milcote Road, BEARWOOD,

● Refurbished Family Home ● Through Lounge ● Re-fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom ● Three double Bedrooms ● Master En-suite ● Upstairs WC ● No Upward Chain

Offers Around £174,950

Galton Road, BEARWOOD,

● Mid Terraced ● Three Reception Rooms ● Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Some modernisation required ● Early Viewing Recommended!

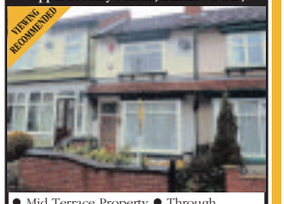
Offers Around £154,950

Thimblemill Road, BEARWOOD,

● Commercial Property plus self contained flat ● Shop Front ● Three Bedrooms ● Fitted Kitchen ● Cloakroom ● Ideal Investment Opportunity

Offers Around £154,950

Upper St Mary's Road, BEARWOOD,



● Mid Terrace Property ● Through Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen ● Two Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom ● No Upward Chain ● Located close to Warley Woods

Offers Around £154,950

Birchley Park Avenue, OLDBURY,

● Modern Semi Detached ● Reception Room ● Fitted Kitchen ● Conservatory ● Three Bedrooms ● Master En-suite ● Family Bathroom ● Garage ● Driveway ● No Upward Chain

Offers Around £139,950

Landswood Road, OLDBURY,

● Semi Detached Property ● Three Bedrooms ● Kitchen/Diner ● Cloakroom ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Driveway ● No Upward Chain

Offers Around £129,950

Thimblemill Road, BEARWOOD,

● Well Maintained Property ● Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen ● Two Bedrooms ● Loft Room ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Ideal First Time Purchase ● Viewing Highly Recommended

Offers Around £124,995

Beakes Road, BEARWOOD,

● Immaculately Maintained Family Home ● Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom ● Three Bedrooms ● Driveway ● Viewing Most Highly Recommended

Offers Around £124,950

Romsley Road, OLDBURY,

● Semi Detached ● Reception Room ● Re-Fitted Kitchen Diner ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Garage ● Driveway ● No Upward Chain ● Viewing HIghly Recommended

Offers Around £124,950

Macdonald Close, TIVIDALE,

● Modern Town House ● Reception Room ● Fitted Kitchen ● Cloakroom ● Two Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Driveway ● Ideal First Time Purchase

Offers Around £114,950

Offices at:
12 Abbey Road, Bearwood, B67 5RD 33-35 Cape Hill, Smethwick, B66 4RX

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Ideal opportunity for investment

A TWO-BEDROOMED end-terraced property in a cul-de-sac in Blakeley Hall Road, Oldbury, is ideal for an investor, as it requires some modernisation and refurbishment.

It is for sale through Tom Giles & Co at £62,500.

It has a storm porch entrance into a reception hall, two reception rooms containing feature fireplaces and gas fires, a kitchen with wood effect flooring, staircase from hallway to a first floor landing off which are two bedrooms and bathroom with a white suite, part double glazing, gas fired central heating, off road parking and front and rear gardens. For details contact Tom Giles & Co on 0121 5526171 or visit the website at www.tomgilesandco.co.uk

Bartrams

TEL. 0121 601 9370
www.bartrams.com

HAMPSHIRE ROAD, B71 2PR

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Could Be Converted To Three
- Large Rear Garden
- Freehold

£114,950

BANKFIELD ROAD, DY4 0EY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Majority Double Glazing
- Majority Central heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£109,950

WALSALL ROAD, B71 3LS

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold

Offers in Region of £122,500

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AH

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£159,950

CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3HX

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Conservatory & Garage At Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£169,950

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

- A Traditional Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Garage, Freehold

£289,950

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

- A Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking

£254,950

GRAHAM ROAD, B71 4ED

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating And Double Glazed
- No Upward Chain, Freehold

£134,950

ROBERTS ROAD, WS10 0LG

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Conservatory

£129,950

WHITEGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- EPC RATING F

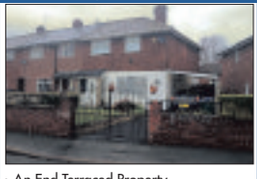
£114,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BH

- A Detached Property
- Six Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms And Freehold
- Garage At Rear, Freehold
- EPC RATING F

£289,950

SHAW ROAD, DY4 7QA



- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- No Upward Chain, Freehold
- EPC RATING D

£114,950

Bartrams

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HOBART ROAD, DY4 9LQ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Freehold
- EPC RATING C

£117,500

RADFORD CLOSE, WS5 4HW

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Freehold, Ideal First Time Buy
- EPC RATING C

£114,950

MONKGATE DRIVE, B71 1NL

- A First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Leasehold
- EPC RATING C

£84,500

RICHARD WILLIAMS ROAD, WS10

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating And Double Glazed
- Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£109,950

SAMS LANE, B70 7EG

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Freehold

£103,950

WHITTINGTON CLOSE, B71 3EX

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Vacant Possession And Freehold
- EPC RATING C

£101,000

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£99,950

Bartrams Sales and Lettings Limited
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E-mail:enquires@bartrams.com

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MIDLANDS

HANDSWORTH
SYCAMORE ROAD

- Mid Terraced House
- FOUR Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- In Need of Modernisation
- GREAT OPPORTUNITY

£120000

BIRMINGHAM
REGENT ROAD

- Mid - Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£111,950

TIPTON
UPPER CHURCH LANE

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- EXTENSIVE Drive
- Garage
- Downstairs WC
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£119,950

BIRMINGHAM
TEW PARK ROAD

- Mid - Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Upstairs W/C
- Double Glazing

£100,000

NEW

TIPTON
HOWARD STREET

- Semi-Detached
- BUNGALOW
- Two Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- NO CHAIN !

£107,995

BIRMINGHAM
WATVILLE ROAD

- Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing
- Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating

£89,950

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if we don't sell your property in 43 days.

* Terms and Conditions Apply

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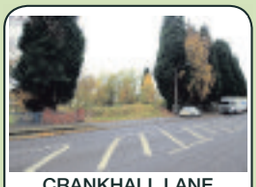
NEW

BIRMINGHAM
ROMULUS CLOSE

- Semi - Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Large Kitchen/ Diner
- NO CHAIN !!

£124,999



CRANKHALL LANE
WEDNESBURY

- Land For Sale
- Palanning Permission Granted
- Ten House Development
- Planning for Four Three Bed Houses
- Planning for Six Two Bed Houses
- Plans Available in Office
- Site Viewings Available

£250,000

Great Western close
BIRMINGHAM

- Land to Buy
- 6.6 Acres
- Advanced stages of planning
- 68 Houses

£1,700,000

REDUCED

High Hill
GOODCHILDS

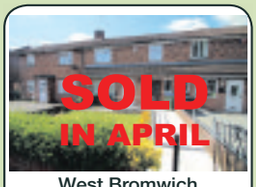
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Bungalow
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fantastic Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with Wet Room
- NO CHAIN
- Essington Village
- Gated Off Road Parking

£299,999

West Bromwich
OAK LANE

- Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing

£94,999



West Bromwich
CAMPVILLE

- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Double Glazing

£114,950

WEDNESBURY
JOHNSON CLOSE

- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- DRIVE
- NO CHAIN

£109,950

Vicarage Road
GOODCHILDS

call GOODCHILDS to VIEW 2 Good Bedrooms
Fitted Bedroom Furniture
Private Rear Garden Conservatory

£95,000

Mark Road

- Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Open Dining Area
- Double Glazing
- Gas Centra Heating

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Darlaston
BLOCKALL
- 5 Bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Sun Room
- Two Garages
- Heated Swimming Pool
- No Chain

£300,000

NEW PRICE

TIPTON
BROOKFIELD
- Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception rooms
- Downstairs W/C
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road parking
- Garage

£179,995

NEW

EDWIN PHILLIPS DRIVE
WEST BROMWICH
- Three Bedroom
- Newly Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Detached House
- Driveway
- Stunningly Well Presented
- Detached Garage
- Conservatory

£165,000

WEDNESBURY
COLLINS ROAD
- Four Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking

£135000

WEDNESBURY
OLD PARK ROAD
- Semi Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Viewing Essential

£128,000

TIPTON
HORSELEY HEATH
- Three bedroom
- Semi detached house
- Two reception rooms
- Front and rear gardens
- Parking & detached garage
- Viewings essential

£125,000

WEDNESBURY
DURHAM ROAD
- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom & Wetroom
- Large Drive

£124,995

TIPTON
ST HELENS AVENUE
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage & Drive

£119,000

WEDNESBURY
BEECH ROAD
- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Ensuite
- No Chain !!
- Double Glazing

115000

WEDNESBURY
QUEEN STREET
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Secure Rear Garden
- Fitted Double Glazing
- Gas Centtral Heating
- No Chain

£104,950

WEDNESBURY
MARK ROAD
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing

£90,000

NEW

WEDNESBURY
VICARAGE ROAD
- Semi-Detacfhed
- Three Storey
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Rear Garden

£89,995

NO CHAIN

Tipton
DUDLEY ROAD
- Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Toilet
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Utility Room

£84,950

WEDNESBURY
BAGNALLS WHARF
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Parking Areas
- Open Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£79,950

WEST BROMWICH
BAGNALLS STREET
- Terrace House
- Three Bedrooms
- One Reception room
- Family Bathroom
- Sunroon
- Double Glazing
- GAs Central Heating

£79.950

15 office locations across the midlands giving you maximum exposure to aid the sale of your property!

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SMETHWICK £144,000
Great Arthur Street, B66
- Three bedrooms
- Large lounge
- Internally maintained
- Maintained rear garden
- Driveway

EDGBASTON £74,950
Berkeycom Drive, B16
- Two bedrooms
- Kitchen/diner
- Double glazed
- Allocated parking
- No upward chain

GREAT BARR £165,000
Old Walsall Road, B42
- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Newly refurbed
- No chain involved
- Parking & garage

SMETHWICK £269,000
Devonshire Road, B67
- Five bedrooms
- Through lounge
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Rear garden & garage
- Driveway

OLDBURY £189,950
Beresford Road, B69
- Three bedrooms
- Through lounge
- Double glazed
- Ideal for FTB
- Family bathroom

OLDBURY £164,995
Wolverhampton Road, B68
- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Driveway & garage
- Delightful family home

SMETHWICK £167,995
Brisbane Road, B67
- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Fitted kitchen
- Double glazed
- Ground floor bathroom

OLDBURY £99,950
Princess Road, B68
- Three bedrooms
- One reception
- Off road parking
- Ideal for FTB
- Quick sale required

TIPTON £635 PCM
St Martins Drive, DY4
- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen
- Driveway for 2 vehicles

KINGSWINFORD £700 PCM
Emville Road, DY6
- Offices to let
- Fitted Kitchen
- Floor space 1106 sq ft
- Comes with fitted CAT5
- Parking available

BOURNVILLE £790 PCM
Woodbrooke Grove, B31
- Two bedrooms
- En-suite
- Open plan kitchen
- Fully furnished
- Allocated parking

QUINTON £440 PCM
Worlds End Lane, B32
- Two bedrooms
- One reception
- Neutral decor
- DG & CH
- Parking available

Smethwick Branch
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Property

Mid-terrace priced at £115,000

A THREE-BEDROOMED mid- terraced house in Marsh Lane, West Bromwich has recently joined the property market, being for sale through Worton Kelly at £115,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall, a front facing lounge, a rear facing dining room, a ground floor bathroom including a bath with a shower over with screen and splash-back tiling, a fitted kitchen with splash-back tiling, an electric oven, gas hob, cooker hood, space for appliances and a door to an inner hall, three first floor bedrooms, a front garden and rear garden with a patio. Contact Worton Kelly on 0121 5885666 or see www.wortonkelly.com

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TIPTON
NEW INSTRUCTION
Benbeck Grove
A fastidiously maintained & presented, SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow excellently set at head of short quiet cul-de-sac with block paved foregarden and comprising: entrance hall, reappointed cloakroom, elegant 19'9" lounge, study, inner hallway, two double bedrooms (principal bedroom with an extensive range of "Schreiber-walnut effect"fitted units, reappointed bathroom with a white contemporary style suite& chrome detailing, separate dining room, tremendous breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of units & many integrated appliances. Garage, sheltered/ secluded, expertly tended rear garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888
Offers in the region of £224,950

OLDBURY
NEW INSTRUCTION
Moat Road
A delightfully presented, thoughtfully improved, spacious 3 bedroomed semi detached property set within this popular neighbourhood, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator hegating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, sitting room, opening through to fitted dining kitchen (having integral oven/hob), utility area, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £179,950

SMETHWICK
NEW INSTRUCTION
Crawford Avenue
A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious, thoughtfully improved 4 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this convenient neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, downstairs bed 4 (previously garage), 3 first floor bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and SUPERB, EXTREMELY LARGE, REAR GARDEN. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £159,950

SMETHWICK
NEW INSTRUCTION
Hugh Road
A delightfully presented, considerably improved 3 BEDROOMED traditional style semi detached property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities, and school, truly requiring an internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall (with downstairs w.c., off), delightful spacious through lounge/dining area, attractive kitchen, 3 bedrooms, super re-fitted bathroom, and pleasant, good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
OFFERS OVER £135,000

TIPTON
NEW INSTRUCTION
Lea Green Avenue, Foxyards
An exceptionally stylish, EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been "transformed" by present vendors over the past 2 years to a stunning specification. Tremendous accommodation includes; enlarged 17 ft reception hall, extended 'L' shape 17 ft living/dining room, enlarged/refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances. Two double bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a contemporary style white suite with chrome detailing, folding loft ladder to extensive ROOF SPACE (14'1" x 10'4" with two velux sky lights). Shortened garage, block paved foregarden, garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888
Offers in the region of £124,950

OLDBURY
NEW INSTRUCTION
Pinkney Place
A deceptively spacious, well presented 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated and requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, majority gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, garage/useful store and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £118,000

OLDBURY
NEW INSTRUCTION
Giles Road
A well proportioned, deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property convenient for local train station, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, spacious lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden (with outside w.c). VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £114,950

OLDBURY
REDUCED
WAS £169,950, NOW £164,950
Castle Road West
An opportunity to acquire a spacious 2 bedroomed bungalow set within this popular neighbourhood, requiring some modernization but offering huge potential and briefly comprising :- Porch, spacious lounge, inner hall, kitchen, rear vestibule/useful store, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and pleasant GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN. NO UPWARD CHAIN. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £164,950

SMETHWICK
REDUCED
WAS £164,950, NOW £159,995
Montague Road
A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious, modern, well presented, 3 bedroomed 3 storey town house which truly requiries internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), dining room (previously garage), attractive fitted breakfast kitchen (having oven/hob), first floor offering delightful lounge and bed 3, and second floor providing 2 further bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite) and house bathroom. There is a drive providing off road parking and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £159,995

SKITTS
ESTATE AGENTS

We Value Your Home

FEATURED PROPERTY
NEW

TIPTON
NEWCOMEN DRIVE

- A modern mid terrace home
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge & dining kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Conservatory
- Two tarmacadam parking spaces
- Patio to rear
- EPC rating: TBC

Offers Over £120,000

MANAGERS CHOICE
NEW

TIPTON
BARTLETT CLOSE

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge & dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Tandem Garage
- Concrete print driveway
- Rear gardens
- EPC Rating: TBC

£127,500

FEATURED PROPERTY
NEW

TIPTON
FERGUSON DRIVE

- Modern three bedroom end terraced
- Lounge & fitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Off road parking
- Rear garden
- EPC Rating: TBC

£128,500

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on **0121 520 2255**

NEW

TIPTON
GRACE ROAD

- Three bedroom end terrace
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Double glazing & gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Driveway
- Rear garden
- EPC Rating: TBC

£99,995

NEW

TIPTON
SANDERS CRESCENT

- Modern mid town house
- Three double bedrooms
- En suite to master bedroom
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Garage & rear garden
- EPC Rating : TBC

£134,995

REDUCED

TIPTON
AVERN CLOSE

- Two bedroom semi detached
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Allocated parking
- Rear garden
- Garage
- EPC Rating: C

£99,950

NEW

TIPTON
BEVERSTON ROAD

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge & dining kitchen
- Central heating & double glazing where specified
- Off road parking
- Front & rear garden
- EPC Rating: C

£134,995

REDUCED

ROWLEY REGIS
BLACKBERRY LANE

- Spacious three bedroom mid terrace
- Lounge, dining room & kitchen
- Downstairs Wc
- Family Bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear Garden
- EPC Rating: D

£110,000

NEW

TIPTON
HEMPOLE LANE

- Modern semi detached home
- 2 bedrooms
- Lounge & breakfast kitchen
- Central heating & double glazing (where specified)
- Front & rear gardens
- EPC Rating: TBC

£109,995

REDUCED

TIPTON
FURGUSON DRIVE

- Modern two bedroom apartment
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Communal gardens
- Two allocated parking spaces
- EPC Rating: C

£79,995

REDUCED

TIPTON
POTTERS BROOK

- Modern four bedroom detached home
- Lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Front & rear gardens
- Two driveways with parking for four vehicles
- Tandem double garage
- EPC rating: C

£249,995

REDUCED

TIPTON
COLBOURNE ROAD

- Two bedroom mid terace
- Lounge, dining room & kitchen
- Double glazing & gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Rear garden
- EPC Rating: TBC

£74,995

REDUCED

TIPTON
GRACE ROAD

- Three bedroom extended semi detached home
- Lounge, dining room & kitchen
- Downstairs wet room
- First floor family bathroom
- Off road parking
- Front & rear gardens
- EPC Rating: C

£109,995

One simple message...
more SOLD signs than any other agent*

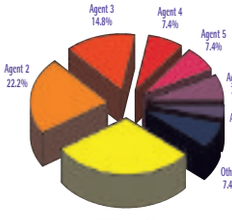
TIPTON
SKITTS

BASED ON A SURVEY COLLECTED ON 4-11 JUNE 2014

soldsignaudit
29.6%

forsale
SIGN ANALYSIS

SUPPLIERS OF INDEPENDENT MARKET SHARE REPORTS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND AND WALES



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47 WESTMEAD DRIVE, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Open plan kitchen/diner
- Detached garage
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

153 MONTAGUE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Recently refurbished end terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- Part PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen and refitted bathroom
- Lawned side garden with added potential for off-road parking
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D
- NO CHAIN

OFFERS BASED ON £129,500

Viewings Bearwood Office

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94 CLENT ROAD, OLDBURY

- Double fronted semi-detached residence
- Superbly appointed and extended
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three good size bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom with shower
- Attractive lounge & family room/conservatory
- Well fitted dining/kitchen
- Launderette and downstairs W.C.
- Mature well stocked gardens
- Two car off-street parking to the front
- INTERNAL INSPECTION ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £174,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

148 HALES LANE, SMETHWICK

- Gas central heating and PVC double glazing
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, spacious lounge & kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Ideal family home
- ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

64 SELSEY AVENUE, EDGBASTON

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Recently refurbished
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £117,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

1 SHELLEY HOUSE, HERITAGE

- Superbly presented ground floor flat
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower
- Kitchen to include oven and hob
- Through lounge/dining room with balcony
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON 82,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

338 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Prominent corner position
- Delightful gardens to front and rear
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled family bathroom
- Downstairs shower/wet room
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory
- Off-street parking for two cars
- An ideal family home
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST

OFFERS BASED ON 157,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

25 SHERWOOD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- End terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- 3 bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen /breakfast room
- Ideal family home
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

98 ROSEFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with individual shower compartment
- Two reception rooms
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking
- Ideal FTBS
- ENERGY RATING : E
- NO CHAIN

OFFERS BASED ON £102,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

1 RAMSEY ROAD, OLDBURY

- Corner semi-detached property
- Recently refurbished to a high standard
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom with mixer shower
- Spacious lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Off-street parking and detached garage
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED

OFFERS BASED ON £153,500

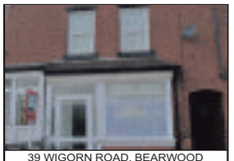
Viewing Bearwood Office

59 NORMAN AVENUE, QUINTON

- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall and downstairs cloakroom
- Extended through lounge/dining room
- Refitted and extended kitchen
- Garage to the rear
- Off-street parking to the front
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £219,950

Viewing Bearwood Office



39 WIGORN ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Spacious bathroom with individual shower compartment
- Two reception rooms and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Close to Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON 134,950

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MILTON COURT, BEARWOOD

- Purpose built development
- Second floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Landscaped garden surrounds
- Exclusive to the over 55w
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £59,950

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- CHAIN FREE
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £64,950

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5 DINGLE, OLDBURY

- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating
- PVC double glazing
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- Side garage and off-street parking
- Recently refurbished
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £110,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

19 PERRY COURT, OLDBURY

- Electric storage heating and double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Allocated parking and communal gardens
- Designated for over 60s (55+ with a disability)
- Warden controlled accommodation
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £52,000 ALL

Viewing Bearwood Office

3 REAR OF 31 EVA ROAD, WINSON

- Pedestrian walkway off Eva Road
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £74,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

10 WELLESLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

- Traditional freehold terraced villa
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Two living rooms
- Kitchen, bathroom and gardens
- Investment property but vacant possession possible late 2014
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

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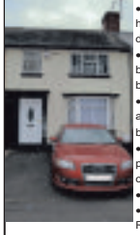
22 DOROTHY ROAD, SMETHWICK



- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
- Off-street parking for two cars
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

55 MILCOTE ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Beautifully improved traditional freehold villa
- Immaculate, gas centrally heated & double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- A most impressive expensively equipped bathroom to include individual oversize shower
- 26ft through lounge/dining room
- Impressive refitted kitchen/ breakfast room
- Laid out gardens
- INTERNAL INSPECTION ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : G

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950

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New Honda packs a punch

By John Griffiths

Super naked . . . there, bet that got your attention.

But since this is a motorcycle test report, we're not talking of an all-over tan but a class of high performance machine which grew out of the 'street fighter' class: a bike that packs a punch but stripped of excess plastic.

Aggressive looks are de rigueur for such machines, and at first sight the latest Honda CB1000R certainly looks the part – almost as if its profile was modelled on that of a crouching big cat, ready to spring.

Press the starter button and first impressions are reinforced by the urgent beating of the test bike's Akrapovic exhaust, making your heartbeat accelerate to match it. The CB1000R is a performer for the real world, based on many components from the legendary Fireblade.

It is relatively short wheelbase, built on a rigid aluminium frame with race-style single-sided swingarm, with brakes and suspension based on those of the race-winning super sport machine, as well as its engine and gearbox.

Weighing in at well under 500lb – one of the lightest in its class –power from the 124bhp from the 1,000cc engine is plentiful. The standard model is £9,399 while the combined ABS version comes in an £500 more.

The Fireblade-derived engine has been down-tuned (although I'd prefer to say re-tuned) so that what is lost in terms of top-end power is more than made up for with low to mid-range torque. Perhaps that doesn't suit some, but for me it creates a more usable, easy to ride road bike that's still rewarding and a lot of fun. It starts off pulling like a train, and gets better as the revs rise making it adept at powering out of slow corners or getting through the traffic with quick 'roll on, roll off' overtakes.

While you might expect it of larger capacity tourers, it was pretty impressive to find the bike would run smoothly through villages, sticking to the speed limits, in top (sixth) gear without complaint from the engine and then pull away rapidly, still without the need to change down.

That gives you an impression of the torquey nature of the engine, when you bear in mind that the same sixth gear will power the CB up to its estimated maximum of 150mph.

Acceleration is smooth, linear and predictable from very low revs (by bike standards) up to the red line.

Modified

Suspension, forks and brakes are also derived from the Fireblade, although modified to take account of the CB's extra weight.

It's also a pleasant surprise for riders like me that the suspension isn't as pogo-stick stiff as some sports bikes, which is fine on track but horrible on a typically bumpy British road. It copes well with the bumps, making cornering more of a predictable and comfortable experience.

Honda has tuned the suspension for a near-perfect balance of ride comfort and accomplished cornering, helped by the bike's inherent balance, light weight and relatively short wheelbase.

It handles like a superbike, with no sense of weight as you tip into a corner or when you straighten out. It inspires confidence and creates its own fun factor through the twisty bits.

The riding position is ideal for the job, the rider leaning slightly forward to the bars but not so extreme as some pure sportsters.

The minimalist front bodywork (the small wind deflector in front of the digital instrument binnacle) doesn't look big enough to be of practical use but for a rider of my size (pretty average) it proved more than an ornament.

Of course there's wind blast at 60 to 70mph, but rather than being uncomfortable I found the pressure only served to take the weight off my wrists and arms so a 200-mile test ride didn't cause any more strain to aging muscles than a fully-faired tourer.

A quick burst of acceleration will be felt in the arms as your body gets pushed back, but that's surely another little part of the thrill of riding a quick bike. It's like hanging on to a thoroughbred horse.

The seat is surprisingly comfortable but the pillion is minimal and I wouldn't fancy spending too much time on that. The sharp rear-end styling doesn't leave a lot of room for strapping on any luggage, either, although you can buy a cargo net from Honda's accessory range.

The CB1000R is one of a trio of one-litre Hondas which have a lot in common but are in fact very different machines. Its other sibling, the CBF1000FA, also shares the basic Fireblade engine but comes with a bikini fairing, touring-style seats and some 20bhp less.

Bikes, probably more than cars, are a very subjective choice and much depends on rider preferences and the type of use you intend to put it to.

The CB1000R has the advantage of strikingly good, futuristic looks and an responsive engine with Honda's legendary smooth and reliable nature. It offers a lot of fun for a road-going machine, and a naked bike experience which for many provides the essence of motorcycling.

Price: £9,399 (£9,899 with ABS).

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Freelander a class act

By John Griffiths

Land Rover has unveiled the most luxurious and best equipped Freelander ever – and despite all the extra kit it costs less than the previous flagship of the range.

And we know there will never be a better Freelander because the model is due to be replaced next year by the Discovery Sport.

Most manufacturers produce special editions during a model's run-out period, and in this case it's the £35,995 Metropolis which builds on the previously top-of-the-range HSE Lux with premium Windsor leather, electrically-adjustable seats, a panoramic sunroof, xenon headlights, a reversing camera, premium metallic paint, gloss black interior highlights and new 19in alloy wheels.

Launched at the Windsor Horse Show, it heads up a completely revised Freelander range, with new trim levels and power train options.

It should boost Freelander sales at a time when the popularity of compact SUVs is still growing, as is the choice and sophistication of the competition.

That said, the Freelander 2 already has the advantage of being instantly recognisable as a product of the iconic marque, with styling cues taken from the Discovery and of course, the Range Rover.

For many that makes it an object of desire, and does second-hand values no harm at all.

Off-roader

The 4x4 Freelander is a serious off-roader, but it's also roomy and comfortable everyday transport on the road: and in the case of the Metropolis downright luxurious. It's the ultimate Freelander, in a range which has been moving further upmarket with each successive revision.

Driver and passengers can relax in the plush leather and in air conditioned comfort, while enjoying the same high-powered surround sound system fitted to top Jaguar models.

A central colour touch-screen provides compact and easy-to-use controls for the satnav, audio and Bluetooth telephone systems.

It is, naturally, powered by the top engine in the range, the 190PS, 2.2-litre, four-cylinder diesel which can take it from a standstill to 62mph in under ten seconds and average a little over 40mpg.

The smooth and responsive automatic transmission is standard: you have to concentrate to even feel the changes which adds to the car's upmarket feel.

That feeling is echoed in the interior: not just the Metropolis extras but the styling cues on the instruments and controls which just scream Range Rover.

A previous makeover simplified the switchgear, removing for example the big 'Terrain Response' knob so that there's now just one switch allowing you to scroll through a menu of settings which govern how the gears, throttle and steering respond best in any given conditions.

Land Rover prides itself on the superior off-road capabilities of all its cars and the Freelander is no exception. But long gone are the days of the Series I's rough ride resulting from the necessarily beefy, long travel suspension.

Now they have to compete with the comfort and ride quality of their less versatile rivals on the road where, let's face it, SUVs will spend most of their time.

The Freelander soaks up the bumps, with a smooth, saloon car-like ride while the engine is refined and quiet. High-speed cornering in a high vehicle like this inevitably means some body roll, but it's not enough to cause discomfort.

If the original Freelander was the baby of the range, the Freelander 2 is the teenager because it grew in all directions, so it's now not all that far behind its more expensive siblings in terms of room for five passengers. The 755 litres of boot space makes it useful family transport and by folding down the three rear seats you can extend that to 1,670 litres. The towing limit is 2,000kg.

Electric windows and mirrors, split/fold rear seats, rear parking sensors, and electronic safety systems such as dynamic stability control are standard across the new Freelander range, which consists of five models.

All are now powered by the same turbo-diesel engine, with three trim levels (including Metropolis) – the other two both come with manual or auto gearbox options. The new line-up starts from £27,765.

New SEAT is an all-rounder big on style and versatility

By John Griffiths

The new SEAT Leon X-perience, with permanent four-wheel drive and all-road equipment combines emotional design with state-of-the-art technology, together with optimum usability and surprising versatility.

With an exceptionally high level of performance and safety, the latest-generation all-wheel drive and a full array of state-of-the-art assistance systems, the Leon X-perience is offered with 2.0 TDI 150PS and 184PS outputs.

The new Leon X-perience completes SEAT's highly successful Leon range. Alongside the dynamic two-door Leon SC, the elegant five-door Leon, the versatile Leon ST estate and the high-performance Leon Cupra, the Leon X-perience is the perfect companion for a varied and active lifestyle.

"The new Leon X-perience interprets our emotional design language in a whole new way. This functional aesthetic, this elegant robustness and safety shows an openness to new ideas. We maintain the youthful spirit with a distinctive feel for the practical things in life" says Jürgen Stackmann, president of SEAT SA.

"The Leon X-perience is the perfect fit for SEAT. As the next step in our brand strategy, it will expand and consolidate the great success achieved by the Leon."

Alongside the latest-generation TDI engines and permanent all-wheel drive with intelligent, electronic control, the Leon ST X-perience boasts all-road suspension with extra ground clearance. A distinctive off-road look and individual interior offer an added dimension of driving fun, together with a wide array of ultra-modern technologies. These include a four-wheel EDS dynamic control system (electronic differential locks on both axles), an extended electronic differential lock for better traction while cornering (XDS), an electronic stability programme and a multi-collision brake system delivering maximum safety.

Further optional hi-tech features include full-LED headlights, ACC Adaptive Cruise Control with City Emergency Brake function, drowsiness detection and lane-keeping assistant.

"The Leon X-perience also offers outstanding safety in all situations, thanks to its superb traction, excellent brakes and integrated assistance systems that extend all the way to ACC adaptive cruise control with Front Assist and emergency braking function."

The highly acclaimed design language of the Leon family has been further accentuated for the X-perience. Sharp lines provide the all-road estate with a stunning appearance of energy and vitality. The dynamic silhouette is long and graceful, yet the Leon X-perience offers the full spectrum of usability for work and leisure, family and sport. The luggage compartment offers a carrying capacity of 587 litres, which extends to as much as 1,470 litres with the rear-seats folded down.

Character

The Leon X-perience derives its own distinct character from the robust protection moulding on the door sills and wheel arches. The powerful front end is adorned with substantial air intakes and integrated fog lamps with cornering light function, plus the front spoiler with its aluminium-look. The rear end, too, is distinguished by its new bumper with an aluminium-look insert and by the chrome tailpipes, which are standard on the 2.0 TDI 184PS. The large wheel arches can accommodate 17in or optional 18in wheels in a dedicated five-twin-spoke design. The roof rails are finished in black.

The Leon X-perience has a unique trim. In the interior, new materials, attention to detail and a combination of strong colours give this car more personality. It offers the black and grey sporty elegance of high-quality fabric upholstery, as well as the option of brown Alcantara or all-black leather seats.

The dynamic character of the Leon X-perience is perfectly matched with two TDI engines that are as gutsy as they are efficient, plus a six-speed manual transmission. The common-rail four-cylinder units produce 150 PS and 184 PS. The standard fit Start/Stop System and Energy Recover System are key elements of the efficiency package.

The top engine is the 2.0 TDI with 184 PS. With its maximum torque of 380Nm and DSG transmission as standard, it delivers enormous dynamism that is only partially conveyed by its acceleration time of 7.1 seconds from 0 to 62mph and its top speed of 139mph. The engine declares its efficiency with a combined fuel consumption figure of 55.4mpg and CO2 emissions of 133 grams per kilometre.

The 2.0 TDI with 150PS, 320Nm of torque and six-speed manual transmission also provides effective propulsion for the Leon X-PERIENCE, boasting a fuel consumption figure of 57.6mpg (CO2: 126 g/km).

The Leon X-PERIENCE is available to order from September and will reach UK showrooms later in 2014.

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Picanto: Model shown is the Kia Picanto 5-dr 'VR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £9,095 including £750 customer saving. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification is subject to change without notice. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press. †3 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'VR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/vr7 for full details. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01/07/2014 and 30/09/2014. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Anticipated annual mileage 9,000 miles, excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. YOU WILL NOT OWN THE VEHICLE UNTIL ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment (£4,246) to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and owned by the Bluetooth SIG, Inc.

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Hundreds of old Fords will once again converge at the Heritage Motor Centre when it hosts the sixth Old Ford Rally with the Ford Y&C Club.

The show, which takes place on Sunday, July 27, is the biggest rally of old Fords in the UK and expected to showcase over 500 vehicles.

Old Fords and all derivatives including commercials, tractors and vehicles with a Ford engine, built up to 1990, will be on display exhibiting the tremendous range of vehicles produced by one of the world's biggest manufacturers.

This year the show will not incorporate the Transit Van Clubs annual Rally, which will now take place from August 8 to 10 alongside the new Classic Van and Pick Up Show.

On display will be a wide range of vehicles from the Model T to cars of the pre-war austerity years, plus agricultural vehicles, Thames and Ford commercial and military vehicles and the more luxurious post-war Zephyrs, Zodiacs and Granadas, along with the Mk1 and Mk2 family Cortina's and Ford Anglia's and Escorts.

Tickets for the rally cost £12 on the day for adults, £8 for children and £34 for a family. Discounted tickets are available in advance online. Visit www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk for event details and ticket prices or call 01926 645031. Gift Aid season tickets and Tesco vouchers are also valid on this day.

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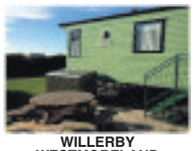

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7 Jobs

building & construction

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PLUMBER/GAS FITTER seeks full time or part time employment, own van and tools. 07936 274048.

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finance & accounting

ACCA TRAINEE POSITION for finance graduates or AAT's available at Chartered Certified Accountants. Full training support in small friendly office. Write with full CV to Michael Heaven & Associates, 48 Calthorpe Road, Birmingham B15 1TH.

EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER required to work in accountants practice in Edgbaston. Should have relevant experience and knowledge of excel. Duties include bank reconciliations, vat, cash book and accounts preparation. Candidate needs to be dedicated and able to work under pressure. AAT or part ACCA suited Apply with CV info@shabirnawab.co.uk

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SUPPORT WORKERS required part time, day or night for a small care home in Walsall. CRB necessary. Contact Michael on 01922 645354.

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personnel@expressandstar.co.uk

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

FORD C MAX 2004, 66000 Miles, Silver, AC, alarm, MOT, diesel, tax, metallic paint £2,950 01543 509009

FORD FOCUS 05, diesel, 1.6LX, TDCi, 47k, fsh, Cat C, dark blue, tax to end of Sept, tax £130pa, £2,800. 07738 738424.

FORD MONDEO 1.8 EDGE 07 reg, grey, 68,000 miles, 9 months MoT, good condition, £2,300. 01543 361148 or 07597 369652.

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN english spec, short wheel base, R reg., tax, MoT till Sept. 2.8 diesel. 126,000 miles. £2,100. 07710 473935.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

SKODA FABIA ESTATE
1.9 TDi, July 2008, 51,000 miles, full MoT tax, main dealer f.s.h. satin grey metallic, 1 owner from new, v.g.c.
£5,950 ono
01922 414766 / 07786 272575

TOYOTA CELICA 1.8VVTi 2002, only 90,000 miles, silver, tax, MoT, immaculate condition, £1,550. Telephone 07563 326824.

VAUXHALL TIGRA, 2005, 61,000 miles, electric windows, electric mirrors, MoT Feb 2015, tax Aug 2014, £2,300 ono. 07565 857723.

cars under £1500

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FORD FIESTA Flight, 2001, silver, 1 owner, 55,500 miles, MoT January 15, tax end of August, £775 ono. 01543 274388.

FORD FOCUS GHIA, 2002, 56,000 miles, blue, fsh, MoT March 2015, tax September. £1,200. 01922 440047.

FORD KA, 2001, leather interior, alloys, tax Sept, MoT July, needs attention, £300. 07585 445720.

FORD STREETKA
2004, 62,019 miles, red, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, 12 months MoT, tax, alloy wheels.
£1,250.
01922 494872.

HONDA PRELUDE 2.0, 1995, tax/MoT, good body condition, £800 ono. 07973 639285.

MGZR 2L DIESEL
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£1,200 ono
07590 401545

PEUGEOT 307 1.4XR 2001, 7 months MoT, 6 months tax, CD, all elecs. Lovely condition, 51 reg, £750. 07434 820 045.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 16V, Fidji Model, 52 Reg. Full MoT, 1 months Tax. 70,000 miles. £1,085 ono. 07933 918920 / 0121 530 3219.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI, 2002, 103,000 miles, black, tax, MoT, electric windows and mirrors, alloys. £1,495. 01785 244074.

VW GOLF 1.6, 02 reg, Tax, MoT, gold metallic, good running order. £895. 01922 492321.

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VAUXHALL COMBO van, 1.7, 2007, 144,000 miles, MoT'd, very clean, £1,650. 01922 495631 or 07768 841443.

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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The council proposes to make The Borough Council of Sandwell (Bowden Road, Smethwick) (One-Way Traffic) Order 2014 to prohibit any vehicles travelling southwest from St. Paul's Road, Smethwick to its junction with Devonshire Road.

Full details can be examined at: Area Director Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE during normal office hours and at www.sandwell.gov.uk Objections should be made in writing by 31/07/14, to Mr Irfan Choudry, Highways, Sandwell Council House, address above, or email highways@sandwell.gov.uk

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Peel Street, Tipton)(Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Peel Street, Tipton between Barnett Street and Perry Street.

The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 31/12/15, effective from 11/07/14. Alternative route via: Barnett Street, Park Lane East, Perry Street and vice-versa. Purpose – new housing development by Devan Homes.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/14/57240	P K K Storage Limited	Land At John Street North West Bromwich	Renewal of extant planning permission – DC/09/50742 for proposed 26no. dwellings (Outline application for access and layout).

This is a major application.

DC/14/57126	Mr S S Sahota Sahota Design & Build	St Pauls Centre Brunswick Park Road & Former Severn Trent Water Sewage Pumping Station Site, Woden Road East Wednesbury WS10 9QR	Proposed part demolition, alterations, extension and change of use to create 9 No. apartments and 2 No. single storey dwellings on land to rear, boundary fencing and associated parking.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Prohibition of Turning) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from turning into Cardale Street, Rowley Regis off Oldbury Road. In addition vehicles will be prohibited from travelling south east along Cardale Street between Oldbury Road and the Flame Community Church. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 04/08/14, effective from 22/07/14.

Alternative route via: Oldbury Road, Station Road and Avenue Road. Purpose – work by Severn Trent associated with a new development by Nagra Builders.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Marmion Way, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Marmion Way, West Bromwich between St Vincent's Crescent and Dial Lane.

The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 25/07/14, effective from 21/07/14. Alternative route via: at Vincent's Crescent, Dial Lane and vice-versa. Purpose – work associated with a new housing development by Lovell Homes.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Speed Humps/Tables Consultation

The council proposes to construct a speed table to reduce the speed of vehicles on Barrs Road, Cradley Heath. Length (m): 32; width (m): 6.6; height (mm): 65.

Full details may be examined at: Area Director Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE during normal office hours and at www.sandwell.gov.uk

Objections in writing by 31/07/14, to Mr Irfan Choudry, Highways, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE, email: highways@sandwell.gov.uk

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

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marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

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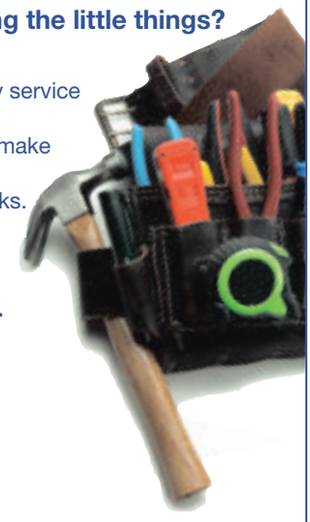

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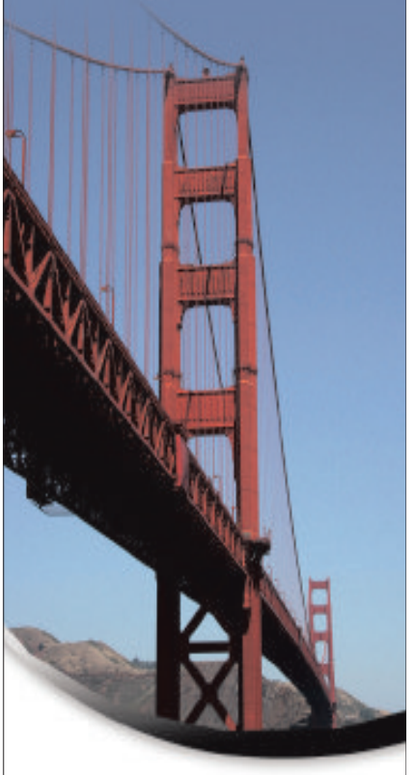

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Starke warning from Heathens' captain

Speedway

CRADLEY skipper Paul Starke insists the hard work is about to start for his side, writes Nigel Pearson.

Heathens currently top the National League table after a hard fought win at Buxton on Sunday – but Starke says they've had an easy run of fixtures to date.

Cradley go to Kent on Monday without three key riders due to fixtures clashes – and the next home meeting is against the in-form Coventry Storm on Tuesday, July 22 at Monmore.

They will also be without Steve Worrall, one of the top riders in British racing right now, for the visit of arch rivals Mildenhall on August 12 as he is racing for Premier League Edinburgh.

Starke said: "With all due respect to the guys at Buxton and Scunthorpe, they are the weaker teams in the league and the hard work starts now for us."

Meanwhile the countdown is on to the showpiece FAST Golden Hammer at Monmore on Tuesday, July 29.

The event, which promotes Dudley Stroke Association and their Face, Arm, Speech, Time (FAST) message to recognise symptoms of stroke, is set to pull in a bumper crowd.

Reigning champion Lewis Blackbird, a hero of last season's Heathens title winning team, will return to defend his crown along with former champions Kyle Newman and Simon Lambert.

And Ashley Birks, who has hit out at British Speedway chiefs for not giving him a chance at Elite League level, has also been handed a place in the field.

Heathens stars Steve Worrall, Tom Perry, Max Clegg, Matt Williamson, Nathan Greaves and Danny Phillips are also in the field with Worrall in particular one of the favourites.

The event features 16 riders over 20 heats with normal admission prices - £11 adults, £8 concessions and £2 children with a special souvenir programme for £3.

Just 48-hours before that, Heathens legend Billy Hamill will appear at Brierley Hill's Copthorne Hotel for 'An evening with Billy Hamill and Friends' – tickets are £10 from the Cradley shop or online cradleyheathens.co and co to the website shop.

George notch up their first away win

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1
Sutton Park 167
The George 233

THE first team gained their first away win of the season beating struggling Sutton Park.

A tight first four saw The George lead by eight shots, Marc Wilson (21-10) and Phil Clinton (21-15) both winning.

The George took control and wins in the middle four by Pete Davenport (21-4), Shane Day (21-6) and Mick McGuinness (21-11) increased the lead to 41 shots. A 66-shot victory was completed with wins by Steve Darling (21-7), Mark Street (21-11) and Steve Dicken (21-19).

South Staffs Premier Division
The George 194
Dudley Dell 237

The second team went down to a disappointing 43-shot home defeat to Dudley Dell. Wins by Eric Winstone (21-11), Chris Lambert (21-18) and Steve Fagin (21-19) .

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2
Baldwin 193
The George 218

The third team had a 25-shot away win at The Baldwin. Best of the seven winners were Bob Sansom (21-6), Jan Pratley (21-8) and Dave Hill (21-9).

Mystery over timing of Faulkner leaving

MIDLANDS club in turmoil Aston Villa announced this week that chief executive Paul Faulkner had left the club.

Quite why is unclear. Within a statement of business jargon came the reason: "Having discussed his re-engaging with the chairman's broader business while remaining involved with Villa in a non-operational role, agreement could not be reached." *writes Nick Mashiter*

Football

We live in multi-cultural society and sometimes it would be nice to see things in plain English, but then many of us have learned the word Shunammite from Randy Lerner this year. Every cloud.

Many would have expected Faulkner to stay on, at least until a takeover was imminent, so the timing of his departure is a surprise.

It is not linked to a buy-out which leaves the situation open to future debate. It only adds to the fear the club continues to tread water, struggling to shake the limbo which has engulfed them.

Three years of relegation battles have seen Faulkner become a scapegoat for the Lerner regime. No-one had any issues when Villa were reaching cup finals and challenging for Europe but as the troubles grew so did the spotlight.

He is a decent and honest man who was always well-intentioned and his exit only serves to add to the uncertainty, not ease it.

Robin Russell, chief financial officer, has stepped in to try to achieve continuity and the day-to-day running of the club is unlikely to be affected. Villa insist it is business as usual – presumably because they have got used to a certain level of upheaval.

Assistant manager Ian Culverhouse and head of football operations Gary Karsa left in May, sacked for alleged bullying. There is little room for manoeuvre for manager Paul Lambert in the transfer market, as he again relies on free transfers and bargain buys.

And now an ally in Faulkner has left there must be a degree of sympathy for Lambert because he did not sign up for this.

He has had his back to the wall for the most of his reign and while he has not covered himself in glory – in both results and his often prickly demeanour – he is constantly fighting fires.

Now he has to prepare a squad amid the backdrop of uncertainty off the pitch.

The bright new dawn which many hoped to be around the corner is still yet to rise with Lerner struggling to find the quick sale he desired.

Many wanted Faulkner to leave with Lerner and they have got half of their wish. The other half take longer.

Cook to serve up the goods, says Smith

Saddlers boss Dean Smith welcomes new signing Jordan Cook to the Banks's stadium

DEAN SMITH says new boy Jordan Cook has the hunger to serve up success at Walsall.

The 24-year-old forward became the Saddlers fourth signing of the summer when the boss persuaded him to put pen to paper on a two-year deal.

Cook is well known to supporters having made eight appearances – scoring one goal – when on loan from Premier League Sunderland in the final weeks of the 'Great Escape' campaign of 2010/11.

The hitman has spent the past two seasons in the Championship with Charlton Athletic, where he made just six starts and failed to find the net before being released earlier this summer.

But Smith believes he has the ability and attitude to be a success at the Banks's.

"Jordan will be the first to admit Charlton did not go as well as he wanted but I have spoken to the people there," said Smith. "We have done our due diligence on him even though we knew him from before.

"He was unfortunate, a few people down there thought he should have played in more games than he did but he is hungry.

"He has big ambitions and has a hunger and desire to come and score goals here and do well for himself."

Baggies line up forward Nakoulma

ALBION were due to hold talks with Burkina Faso forward Prejuce Nakoulma.

The 27-year-old, a free agent after leaving Polish side Gornik Zabrze, is one of several targets being considered by the Baggies.

Nakoulma, who can play up front but is said to prefer playing on the wing, has played for six clubs in eight years in Poland, scoring 24 goals in 87 games in three years at Zabrze, including a season-long loan spell.

Polish champions Legia Warsaw, now managed by Henning Berg, are also eyeing Nakoulma, who has also netted four times in 16 appearances for his country.

Albion need reinforcements in the wide and forward areas after the departures of loanees Scott Sinclair, Morgan Amalfitano, Matej Vydra and Thievy Bifouma.

Nakoulma is on their radar as head coach Alan Irvine looks to bolster his squad as they prepare to return to training.The news on Nakoulma comes after Albion unveiled Mervyn Day as their new head of recruitment with a brief to reduce the signings risk factor.

The 59-year-old left a similar role at Brighton at the end of last season.

Swimmers face tough opposition

Nuneaton Junior League Round 3

JUNIOR swimmers from Halesowen made the trip to Leamington Spa for the final round of the first division.

The draw meant the team faced strong opposition with all but one of the other teams placed higher in the League after the first two rounds.

All the swimmers put in battling performances but were unable to gain ground on the other teams and finished the gala in fifth spot on the night.

The result sees Halesowen junior swimmers secure their first division status into 2015. Star of the show was Kate Morrice with double individual wins.

Battle starts to keep the Brummies

PASSIONATE Birmingham speedway supporters have set up a fighting fund to try and keep the club going.

With the future of the Perry Barr Brummies looking bleak, supporters desperate to keep their club on track have already raised over £5,000 .

Whilst progress so far has been superb, they are appealing for donations to keep coming as they look to enable speedway to continue in the city.

Contributions can be made by PayPal, bank transfer or cheque, with all monies returned or passed on to the Speedway Riders' Benevolent Fund should the club fold. More details can be found on www.brummie-speedway.net.

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Hadley signs for another season

BEN HADLEY has agreed to another season with Tipton Town under the new management team much to the delight of the club.

Head Coach Nathan Lamey said: "Ben has been spot on the last week.

"He obviously had options, but we were really keen to demonstrate our credentials and ability to Ben.

"We had a good chat with him after Thursday's session and Friday morning he sent us a message that he wanted to be on board.

"Only three weeks ago we had the task of a complete new team with no budget and competing against teams in our league and above with a budget. The personnel we have are nothing short of fantastic and their desire to succeed is so refreshing to see".

Hadley added: "The team made me feel so welcome and the philosophy of the management team is something I want to be part of.

"As soon as I arrived I was made to feel an important part of the plans and squad.

"The lads are class, very supportive and the desire to be successful is something I have not witnessed before."

Conditioning coach Carey-Bertram has been hard at work over the past week to get the players ready.

Lambert keen on Bendtner

NICKLAS Bendtner has emerged as a shock Villa target as Paul Lambert continues to hunt in the bargain basement.

The former Arsenal striker is available on a free transfer after leaving the Emirates.

Bendtner has reportedly been offered a three-year deal by Eintracht Frankfurt but is keen to stay in the Premier League.

Boss Lambert is moving forward with his summer plans despite the departure of chief executive Paul Faulkner, who was crucial in transfer negotiations.

With Nicklas Helenius keen on a loan move to former club Aalborg, Villa need reinforcements.Helenius has become disillusioned with a lack of opportunities following his £1.2m arrival.

Lambert has so far signed Joe Cole and Philippe Senderos on free transfers

Glover is itching for Harris showdown

Boxing

TIPTON'S Lee Glover 'can't wait' for Friday's showdown with Gloucester's Andy Harris for the British Masters Super Featherweight Title at Walsall Town Hall.

The 'Tipton Slasher' is ready to make up for lost time and avenge his Majority Decision loss to Jon Kays for the English Title when he appears he tops the bill of EJKO Promotions' 'The Heat Is On'.

Glover has revealed that he is using that paper thin English Title defeat as inspiration as he looks to push on and fulfil his potential.

"It still plays on my mind a bit but I'm using that as motivation to push on," Glover said. "I took the English Champion all the way and only lost a majority decision away from home against the Champion. I've proved I can mix it at that level."

"I only had a four-rounder before that fight so that gives me confidence too.

"Having a ten round fight on home soil is just what I've been waiting for. It's been a long time since I fought in front of my home fans, so I want to put on a bit of a show. It's a big deal for me.

"Andy Harris is a tough kid. He will be a test but I'm ready for it. I'm fully committed to boxing and ready to push on. I did slack off a bit when my daughter was born but now she's a little older; I can give this sport my all and really kick on. Friday can't come quick enough."

A limited number of tickets, priced at £30 and £60 Ringside, are available from Walsall Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900. The aftershow party and weigh-in both take place at the Pitch Sports Bar and Grill on Bridge Street, Walsall.

Glover versus Harris is supported by four intriguing fights. Halesowen super middleweight Lennox Clarke will be looking to record a fourth straight win when he steps in with Croydon's Joe Walsh.

Stafford's Grant Cunningham makes a welcome return to ring action. The undefeated super middleweight prospect will be looking to make it 9-0 when he takes on the dangerous Welsh scrapper, Jamie Ambler.

Birmingham super featherweight prospect, Sean 'Show Time' Davis, takes on Bristol's Harvey Hemsley. The show will be aired live on BBC WM's DAB Digital Service and online at www.bbc.co.uk/wm.

USA FIRM WILL SPONSOR ALBION

ALBION have ended their summer search for a new main sponsor by clinching a deal with a multi-billion pound American-based business.

The Baggies will carry the brand of QuickBooks – a software accountancy solution that has been a roaring success for Californian firm Inuit – on the new shirts to be launched on Friday.

Football

The deal is thought to be in the same region as the £1m-a-year Zoopla sponsorship which came to a controversial end last season when its Jewish co-owner Alex Chesterman took exception to the infamous Nicolas Anelka 'quenelle' salute.

That gave the club one more signing to chase in a summer which sees them looking to re-stock their first team squad extensively.

And the deal has now been announced linking Albion with parent company Intuit, a firm founded in 1983 which has gone on to become a brand leader in financial management.

Mileage

Their base will throw fresh clarity on Albion's decision to take up the extra mileage of a trip to the USA west coast later this month for a pre-season tour.

Albion chief executive Mark Jenkins said: "I'm delighted to welcome QuickBooks on board as our new principal partner.

"The fact we have been able to join forces with such an established global brand underlines the strides the club has been making in recent years. We are looking forward to forming a strong working relationship with Intuit QuickBooks."

QuickBooks Vice-President and UK Managing Director Rich Preece, added: "We're thrilled to be forming a close partnership with West Bromwich Albion Football Club.

"As one of the founding members of the Football League, Albion has a long and impressive history as a well-supported, family-focussed club with incredibly passionate fans."

The deal means Albion also have the chance to find a sponsor for their training kit with QuickBook restricting their branding to the match shirts.

Meanwhile Albion have been told they will have to pay a fee for Australian international Jason Davidson if they want press ahead with his signing.

The Baggies have held preliminary talks with the 23-year-old left-back, who played in all three of his nation's World Cup games, in the belief that he was a free agent. But Davidson's Dutch Eredivisie side Heracles Almelo have insisted that they have a one-year option on his contract .

Jordanne smashes it to become our champion

Jordanne Whiley, left, and Yul Kamiji celebrate winning the ladies' wheelchair doubles title at Wimbledon, after they defeated the two-time defending champions Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot

The Black Country can boast it's very own Wimbledon champion thanks to Jordanne Whiley.

The talented 22-year-old from Halesowen took the ladies' wheelchair doubles title with partner Yui Kamiji of Japan.

The pair beat Dutch duo Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot – the two-time defending champions – to scoop the title and shared the prize of £12,000.

Whiley and Kamiji, the number one seeds, avenged their loss in the 2013 final with a 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory.

Jordanne was cheered on by her parents Keith and Julie and boyfriend Marc. "I was really nervous and disappointed the first set didn't go our way," said Miss Whiley, now of Uxbridge.

"I put a towel over my head, thought that I will only get one shot at a Wimbledon final and that was the turning point." When Kamiji and Whiley made it 6-5 in the third set, Whiley thought she might be sick on the court. She said: "I said to Yui I thought I was going to vomit because I felt excited, nervous and was so scared. ."

Whiley was born with brittle bone disease, the same condition as her father Keith who was a bronze medallist at the 1984 Paralympics. She has broken her legs 26 times.

Tipton's fixtures for Cups

TIPTON Town FC now know their opponents in both the FA Cup and FA Vase preliminary rounds.

The FA Cup draw sees Town take on St Andrew's of the East Midland Counties league, while in the FA Vase, the club faces a home tie against the newly formed Hinckley AFC.

The FA Cup tie takes place on Saturday August 16, while the FA Vase will be at the Tipton Sports Academy on September 6.

Tipton manager Nick Hawkins, who himself played in the FA Cup third round proper against Cardiff City was part of the Chasetown squad that made the club so famous.

He said: "There is no better feeling than playing in the FA Cup. It is an experience I will never forget and something I really hope to emulate in the future, hopefully with Tipton Town."

"As a management team, we see no reason why we can't go on a successful cup run this season.

"There is a great buzz around Tipton Town at the moment and I think it is rubbing off on all involved. Hopefully we can get more people through the gates."

Woff will lead the GB riders

TAI WOFFINDEN spearheads the 10-man Great Britain squad for speedway's World Cup announced by new team boss Alun Rossiter.

'Rosco' must select four for the big night at King's Lynn on Saturday, July 26.

But Wolves' world champion Woffinden, already captain, is odds on.

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